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ANGLING

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES,

REDUCED TO A COMPLETE SCIENCE :

BEING THE RESULT OF MORE THAN FORTY YEARS REAL
PRACTICE AND STRICT OBSERVATION THROUGHOUT THE
KINGDOMS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

IN THREE PARTS.

First, Describing (among other things) the Counties of England, Wales, and Scotland, in alphabetical order; the Rivers and other Waters which they contain; their rise, progress, and curiosities; together with those of Ireland; the Fish they produce, and the parts best adapted for Angling: Interspersed with curious and entertaining incidents and practical remarks never before made public.

Secondly, A full description of the different kinds of Fish taken by Angling, &c. their natures, haunts, seasons, spawning-times, baits, biting-times; and how to angle for each; with many curious, useful, and pleasing observations.

Thirdly, A list of Artificial Flies (the completest collection ever yet known), which will take Fish in all Waters in each of the above Countries; the materials, and how to make each as described; the most skilful way of throwing the line, and of managing it when in the water; Night Fly-fishing; Natural Fly-fishing, &c.

The Whole forming a WORK of real UTILITY, Comprising objects too numerous to be detailed in a Title Page, and of a very different nature from those insignificant little Pamphlets hitherto published, which treat chiefly of angling in the Thames, the New River, and other Waters of equal consequence about London.

By SAMUEL TAYLOR, Gent.

L O N D O N :

Printed by A. Strahan, Printer, Street,

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1800.





TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

THOMAS LORD DUNDAS.

MY LORD,

MANY years ago, when I had the honor of conversing with Your Lordship upon the subject of Angling, you were graciously pleased to advise me to continue my pursuits in the art, if I thought I could improve upon the knowledge I had then acquired. It was not till several years afterwards, that I made a tour to North Britain and Ireland; and upon my return, which is some time since, I had the honor of an interview with Your Lordship, when you were not only pleased to approve of the whole of my improvements and remarks, and to accept of some Limeric hooks, but did me the distinguished honor of permitting me, whenever I should think of publishing a Work on this subject, to dedicate it to Your Lordship.

Your Lordship's having formerly been an excellent angler, and fond of the diversion, particularly of *fly-fishing*, which is the most delightful branch of the art, renders this your kind condescension highly gratifying to me, and, added to the many obligations which I am under to Your Lordship, fills my heart at once with unspeakable gratitude, respect, and love. I am happy, therefore, now that the *Work* is brought forward, in having it in my power thus humbly to lay before so noble, so good a man and friend, the result of my assiduous study, wherein I presume to think I have reduced Angling to a *complete science*.

The inclination as well as power of encouraging every kind of merit and industry, is so conspicuous in Your Lordship's nature, as to admit of no comparison ; but though I despair of addressing Your Lordship in any terms adequate to your worth and dignity, or in a language suitable to my feelings, yet I have the confidence to believe, that Your Lordship will accept of this acknowledgment as the effusion of a grateful heart.

That

That Your Lordship and family may here en-
joy an uninterrupted state of health and felicity,
and hereafter be amply rewarded for your many
generous and meritorious acts, is the sincere
wish of,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most grateful,
Obedient, and
Devoted humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE art of Angling, in its different branches, having hitherto failed of becoming useful to a sufficient extent, for want of a work written by a real practitioner, founded on long experience, and calculated to reduce the whole to a complete science, I have been called upon for years past, and strongly solicited by some hundreds of gentlemen (strangers, as well as friends and companions in the diversion of angling) throughout the countries of Great Britain and Ireland, to take upon me the task and complete a work of this kind; declaring at the same time, that they should not mind what price I put upon it. I have at length complied with their requests; and, as the result of the experience

experience I have had for upwards of forty years, the following work will, I trust, be found so entirely complete, that even the best of anglers may improve by it, and those who are unacquainted with angling, may easily become adepts in the art.

I HAVE not treated of some few rivers of England only, and the common fish taken therein; but have extended my observations to the whole countries of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. I describe what kinds of fish the several rivers produce, and the places best adapted for angling therein. Nor have I contented myself with merely describing the various kinds of fish taken by angling in these waters, so as that they may be known when seen, with their natures, qualities, haunts, seasons, spawning-times, feeding-times, baits, how to angle for each, rods, lines, &c. ; but every proper matter and thing concerning angling is so clearly laid down, that it is now impossible for any one to be at a loss in any thing with regard
to

to this art ; the work in this instance being quite different from what has hitherto been attempted ; and the reader will find the assertion of some historians who have written on the nature of Salmon, and some other fishes, refuted.

The list of flies given in this work, and the instructions for making each, are very valuable, and cannot fail of making a person perfect in the best manner of fly-making, (as yet peculiar to myself,) with but very little practice ; and the rules given for fly-fishing are uncommonly instructive ; so that the result of them, if rightly put in practice, must be never failing success.

Several of those who have ventured to write upon this subject have known but little, if anything, of the nature of fish, even of those they have attempted to treat of, and, I am persuaded, have never taken either Salmon or Trout by angling, perhaps never saw one alive in the water in their lives.—Indeed, they do not presume
to

to give any account of taking Salmon or Salmon Trouts by angling, or how to make flies for them, not having been able to distinguish between small Salmon, Salmon Trouts, and others of the Salmon kind; and had some of them been presented with a Grayling, it is a query if they could have told what kind of fish it was. They recommend angling in the Thames from London bridge to Chelsea, and higher up; as if such parts of the river were the best of all others; or as if the Thames thereabout was the chiefest river for that purpose that we have in this country; with some such account of other rivers about the metropolis, they tell you methods of taking Gudgeons, Roach, Dace, Barbel, and other common fish, strongly advising the ground baits for baiting the places where you angle, in bottom fishing, &c. to be equal or superior to your hook baits; which is exceedingly wrong, for they should always be inferior, as is clearly shewn in the Second Part of this production; and, added to their preposterous nonsense of alluring fish to bite by

by the use of oils, &c. and their unlawful rules given for the encouragement of poaching, and foxing of fish as they term it; (which are shameful, and never will appear in any proper treatise of angling,) render the whole of their compositions at once ridiculous; so that, instead of instructing, they only bewilder, and prevent many from partaking of this delightful diversion, which they might enjoy were they but properly instructed.

By what has been here advanced, the author does not mean to detract from the merit of any others who have touched upon the subject; but only to shew how his methods differ from their notions.

In this work there is not the least thing imaginary; but all is written from the real knowledge the author has acquired in the art, assisted by his own private memorandums; so that he thinks he may without vanity justly entitle it, *Angling Reduced to a Complete Science*; and the whole is so interspersed with remarks and little pleasing

pleasing anecdotes, that the reader will be agreeably surprised and entertained.

That such a book is wanting, and may prove useful and pleasing to thousands, is obvious from the numerous and pressing solicitations the author has lately received to finish and make his public, as well as from the nature of those little pamphlets that still appear in print.

Angling has ever been my delight, which led me to extend my observations and improve the art when quite a youth; and I soon became accounted the completest angler in the surrounding counties where I had my practice. But I was not then satisfied with myself.—I began to consider, that to constitute a complete angler, the nature of fishes should be thoroughly known; by strict perseverance I attained this knowledge, and discovered their certain baits for the different seasons of the year; their favorite flies for the various months, weeks, days, and hours throughout the season; and constantly practised

tised making them artificially till I could imitate nature exactly. After this, angling became more pleasant to me ; and hearing that there were excellent rivers and anglers in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, I visited those countries, to my no small satisfaction ; and so by degrees I extended my diversion, and at length experienced angling through the various counties and places stated in Part the First ; still continuing my remarks, and improving, till that power became exhausted. I then began to think of putting together the memoranda which form this book.

ANGLING
IN
ALL ITS BRANCHES,
&c. &c. &c.

PART THE FIRST.

A list of the counties of ENGLAND, WALES, and SCOTLAND, in alphabetical order; the rivers and other waters which they contain; their rise, progress, and curiosities; together with those of IRELAND; the fish that they produce, and the parts best adapted for angling.—A description of the lochs or lakes; noticing the number of islands that some of them comprise, and distinguishing those which are inhabited; the cause of the rivers expanding into these large waters, and afterwards sending forth other rivers; with an account of the beautiful lake of Killarney.—In this Part are interspersed some curious and entertaining little incidents

dents which occurred to the Author in the course of his pastime of Angling; with many other remarks never before made public.

E N G L A N D.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE *Ouse*, the chief river of this county, enters it between *Brayfield* and *Turry*, passes through *Bedford*, and leaves the county again at *St. Neot's*. It has a beautiful course, dividing the shire into two equal parts; and in the distance of twenty miles is computed to run over a tract of seventy; yet in all that course it receives only the small river *Ivel*, which falls into it a little above *Temsford*.

These rivers produce Pike, Perch, fine Eels, Crawfish, and abundance of common fish.

BERKSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county (beside the *Thames*) are, the *Isis* and the *Kennet*;

Kennet; the former of which rises in *Gloucestershire*, and, with other streams, forms the *Thames*, which will be more particularly mentioned in its place. The latter runs past *Newbury* to *Reading*, and is so far navigable. There is also the little river *Lamburn*, which is always highest in summer, and in the midst of winter is said to be entirely dry.

There are excellent fish in some of these rivers. Near Newbury, Speenham Lands, and Hungerford, are taken fine Trout. These waters are also famous for Crawfish.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Thames* (which passes the southern borders of this county) and the *Ouse* (which nearly surrounds the town of *Buckingham*); besides which, there are the *Tame* and the *Colne*.

Trout and other good fish are to be found in these rivers.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Ouse* and the *Cam*; the former of which, running from the east to the north west, receives the latter near *Thetford*, after having passed the several towns of *Chesterford*, *Soham*, and *Ely*.

In some parts of these rivers will be found excellent fishing. Near the town of Cambridge particularly is very good angling for Pike, Perch, &c.

CHESHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Mersey*, the *Dee*, and the *Wevel*. The first of these runs from the north east, and divides this county from *Lancashire*. The second rises from two hills in *North Wales*, passes *Grafton* in this county, then takes a northerly course to *Chester*, below which it becomes very extensive, and soon falls into the sea. The third springs in *Shropshire*, and runs for some miles from south to north,

north, by *Nantwich* ; then, inclining to the west, falls into the *Mersey*.

These rivers abound with fish ; and numbers of very fine Salmon, Salmon Trout, Trout, Perch, &c. are taken in the season.

CORNWALL.

The river *Tamar* runs by the town of *Launceston* in this county, and passes into *Devonshire*. The *Camel* rises at *Camelford*, runs down by *Bodmin* to *Wadbridge*, and at last forms *Padstow-haven*. The *Fale* runs from north to south into the Channel at *Falmouth*. The *Fowey* rises near the centre of the county, and, taking a northerly course, runs by *Fowey* and *Lestwithiel*. The *Cobor* runs by *Helfton* into the sea ; and the river *Looe* divides the towns of *Eastlooe* and *Westlooe*.

There is plenty of fish (of the Salmon kind, Trouts, and many others) to be taken in these rivers.

CUMBERLAND.

This county contains a number of rivers, exclusive of lakes or meres. The principal are the *Eden*, which is said to rise from *Mowill-hill* in *Westmoreland*, and runs on the north side of *Carlisle* into the *Solway Firth*. The *Petterel* runs on the east side, and the *Cauda*, or *Cawd*, on the west ; so that the city is almost surrounded with rivers. The *Derwent* rises from the *Derwent Mountains*, and, running through the middle of the county, falls into the *Irish Sea*. Some have erroneously asserted, that in one or more of these rivers is taken the delicious fish called *Charr*. This is a mistake, however, which perhaps arises from a species of *Trout* that is caught in the river *Petterel*, about the size of the *Charr*, of nearly as fine a colour, and not easily distinguishable in taste, particularly when potted. I am persuaded that the very singular sort of fish called *Charr* is nowhere to be found in *Great Britain*, except in *Winander-Mere* in the county of *Westmore-*

Westmoreland, (and which divides it from *Lancashire*,) *Ulles-Water* in this county, and a lake at *Snowden* in *Wales*.

These rivers, especially the Derwent, produce excellent Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, and various other sorts of fish; so that a person who understands the art of angling may always find sport in this county.

DERBYSHIRE

Has several fine rivers, among the principal of which is the *Derwent*, which rises in the *Peak*, and runs through the center of the county, passing through *Chatsworth* park (the seat of the Duke of *Devonshire*) to *Derby*, and falling into the *Trent* some few miles below that town. The *Erwasb* also rises in the *Peak*, and ends in the *Trent*. The *Dove* parts this county from *Staffordshire*, runs near *Ashborn*, and falls into the *Trent* four or five miles to the north of *Burton*. The *Trent* bounds the county on the south, and the *Wye* runs through *Bakewell*. The *Dove* is remarkable

able for its blue transparency, (from which it is supposed to have derived its name,) and the *Derwent* for its brownness.

These rivers produce excellent fish. Even close to the town of Derby I have taken Trout, and plenty of fine Graylings, a fish not known in North Britain or Ireland, nor in many parts of England.

DEVONSHIRE

Is well watered by several fine rivers and abundance of small streams. The principal rivers are, the *Tamar*, which separates this county from *Cornwall*, has its rise near *Welcombe*, and, running from north to south, becomes so very large and so deep, for near two leagues before it opens into *Plymouth Sound*, that the *Salmon* have a secure retreat in the salt water; the river *Plime*, which runs by *Plymouth*; the *Ax*, near *Axminster*; the *Ex*, which rises among the hills on the north side of the county, and, like the *Tamar*, begins within five miles of the sea, runs to *Tiverton*,
just

just below which it receives the small river *Loman*, and, keeping on its course to *Exeter*, falls into the Channel. There are also the rivers *Towridge* and *Taw*, both of which meet the sea just below *Bideford* and *Barnstaple*, forming one channel ; the *Tavy*, which runs by *Tavistock* ; the *Dart*, which runs by *King's Ware* and *Dartmouth* ; and the *Columb*.

These rivers abound with excellent Salmon and Trout, and contain uncommon quantities of other fish, which afford great diversion to the angler. I have often angled near Exeter, where I always met with good sport ; and have taken that much-esteemed fish called Mullet.

At the latter end of August, in the year 1786, returning from *Exeter* to *London*, I had occasion to stop at *Honiton*, a stage of sixteen miles, where I was accommodated at the *George Inn*. The next day Mr. *Readstone* (who kept the inn) and I entered into conversation upon angling, particularly fly-fishing for Trout, when he mentioned a small river near the town which

which had been once famous for that species of fish, but was now fallen into disrepute, on account of the privileges granted of late years to the freemen of Honiton to use whatever means they pleased to take and destroy the fish; so that there were not any to be taken by angling within some miles of the town. I then told him that I would take a walk to this water, as I could always find Trout in a river wherein there ever had been any. Upon coming to the river, I found it a very small stream, not sufficient to harbour any fish in that part: but on following its course a little way, I soon perceived (as I expected) the streams more rapid, and deeper in many places, occasioned by little falls of water, and the bottom, here and there, full of small craggy rocks, (which is generally the case in small *Trout rivers*,) by which means the fish are sheltered and preserved; it being impossible, in such bottoms, totally to destroy them.

Being convinced (by the observations just before stated, together with the quality

quality of the water) that there were Trout in these places, I began to angle with a favourite artificial fly of my own making, with which (in about an hour and a half) I caught a fine dish of Trout, some of them very large. The fish were afterwards shewn to several gentlemen who were reputed to be the best anglers in the town, all of whom expressed their astonishment at my success; as they had been out that and the preceding day, but could not raise a single fish. This may serve as a convincing proof that very few of the number of those who pretend to be good anglers have much, if any, knowledge of the nature of fish or their baits; for I had often, before that time, met with similar success in several of these kinds of *condemned rivers*, in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland.

DORSETSHIRE.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Stour*, or *Stower*, which rises in *Somersetshire*,

shire, but soon enters this county, runs to *Sturminster* and *Winburn*, then takes nearly a westerly course, leaves *Dorsetshire*, passes *Hampshire*, and soon after falls into the sea; and the *Froom*, which rises in the east of this county, takes nearly a westerly course by *Dorchester*, and falls into *Pool Harbour*. There are also the rivers *Piddle* and *Wye*, or *Wey*, upon the mouth of which last stand the towns of *Weymouth* and *Melcombe Regis*.

There are Trout and other fish in these rivers : but the Stour produces famous Tench and Eels.

In Mr. Browne's water, four or five miles above *Dorchester*, I have often taken from six to eight dozen of Trout in an afternoon.

DURHAM.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Wear*, which rises from the western part of the county with many windings, passing through the city of *Durham* by *Lumley Castle*, and afterwards falling into the sea
at

at *Sunderland*; the *Tees*, which rises near the head of the *Wear*, and divides this county from *Yorkshire*, passes by *Barnard Castle* and *Stockton*, after which it falls into the sea; and the *Tyne*, which will be noticed hereafter.

These rivers afford Salmon Trout, and plenty of common fish, of which I have taken (just below Durham) from ten to eighteen dozen in the course of the day.

ESSEX.

The rivers of this county (beside the *Thames*) are, the *Stour*, which falls into the sea at *Harwich*; the *Lea*, which runs into the *Thames* a little below *Stratford*; the *Blackwater*, which runs through the middle of the county, and, passing by *Chelmsford*, is joined by the river *Chalmer*, after which it falls into the sea; and the *Colne*, which runs by *Halsted* to *Colchester*, and so on to the sea.

These rivers produce many kinds of fish; but are so poached, particularly near the towns which

which they pass in their course, that an angler, unless he be very skilful, seldom meets with much sport. From Lea Bridge downwards there is good angling for Perch, Pike, Chub, Roach, Dace, fine Gudgeons, and Barbel.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is the *Severn*, which is large and beautiful, and, for the length of its navigation, may be said to rival the *Thames*. It rises out of a mountain called *Plinlimmon Hill* in *Montgomeryshire*, and is capable of carrying large barges from *King-Road* up to *Pool-Quay* in the said county of *Montgomery*. It passes by the principal towns of *Shrewsbury*, (which it surrounds in the form of a horse-shoe,) *Bridgenorth*, *Bewdley*, and the cities of *Worcester* and *Gloucester*; which county it enters a little above *Tewkesbury*, where the tide flows, and frequently higher, which is said to be more than seventy miles from the sea. It then passes
Newnham,

Newnham, below which it resembles a sea, the tide rushing on with such impetuosity when coming in, that it rolls four or five feet high, and carries every thing before it. But what is affirmed to be more remarkable is, that the tides are highest one year at the full moon, and the next year at the change; and that in one year the night tides are highest, and the next the day tides. This river at last falls into the *Bristol* Channel. There are also the rivers *Wye*, (which passes *Chepstow*,) *Stroud*, *Avon*, and *Ips*.

These rivers produce plenty of fine fish to afford the Angler great sport. In the Severn, near Gloucester, are taken, in the Fishery, abundance of fine Salmon, with which the London markets are chiefly supplied.

HAMPSHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Avon*, which comes down from *Salisbury*, and enters this county at *Charford*, bringing with it all the waters of the south and east parts of

Wiltshire, and receiving also the *Stour* and the *Piddle*, two *Dorsetshire* rivers which bring down with them all the waters of the north of *Dorsetshire*, and, taking a course towards the south, falls into the sea below *Christchurch*; the *Wey*, which rises in this county, and runs into *Surrey*; the *Tese*, which runs to the south, at *Stockbridge* forms several islands, and afterwards falls into the *Southampton Water*. There is also the river *Itching*, which runs by *Winchester* and *Southampton*, and where there is good angling, as also in many parts of all these rivers, which afford fine Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, Mullet, and other fish.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

This county is well watered by rivers, the principal of which are, the *Wye*, which rises from *Plinlimmon Hill* in *North Wales*, and has a long course, running through *Hereford*, *Ross*, and many other places in this county; the *Lug*, which passes through *Leominster*; the *Arrow*, the *Monow*, the *Frome*,

Frome, and the *Diffryn-Doe*; the last of which is the only river of the county that does not rise in *Wales*.

These are excellent rivers for sport; abounding with Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, Grayling, and almost every other species of river fish. The Salmon in the Wye are remarkable for being always good; for, it is not known that a foul fish was ever taken out of that river; and the Graylings in the Lug are very fine, as well as those in the Wye.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

Many small rivers water this county: but the principal ones are the *Lea* and the *Colne*. The former of these comes from *Milford* to *Ware*, and is the only navigable river in the county. The latter runs through *Watford*, where it has two streams, which run separately to *Rickmansworth*.

In the river, near Ware, I have taken excellent Trout, and other fish.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Nyne*, or *Nen*, and the *Ouse*. The *Nen* comes from *Wansford*, with a winding course round the north west and northern borders of the county. The *Ouse* enters it at *St. Neot's*, and, passing *Huntingdon*, soon after leaves the county.

I have frequently angled in the latter river, near Huntingdon, and always met with good sport. It produces excellent Pike, Perch, Eels, and abundance of common fish.

KENT.

The *Medway* is the chief river of this county (beside the *Thames*). It rises in *Suffex*, and enters *Kent* near *Penshurst*, takes a north east course by *Tunbridge*, *Maidstone*, and *Rocheſter*, below which it forms *Chatham Dock*, and afterwards joins the mouth of the *Thames*.

This river produces good fish of several kinds.

The

The river *Thames* passes this county at *Greenwich*, where is taken a small kind of fish called *White-Bait*, which is so much esteemed, that in the season the inhabitants of the metropolis and other places were used to flock thither in parties to partake of these delicious morsels. But this practice is now prohibited, the fish being found to be nothing but the small Smelt ; which was always my opinion.

Not far from *Westram* rise nine considerable springs, which unite at a small distance, and form the river *Dart*, which runs through *Dartford* into the *Thames*. There are also the rivers *Len* and *Tunn*, the last of which runs into the *Medway* near *Tunbridge*, and the river *Stour* near *Canterbury*, which affords plenty of fine Trout.

LANCASHIRE.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Mersey*, by which it is parted from *Cheshire*, and which rises on the west side of *Blackstone Edge*, running by *Warrington* to

Liverpool; the *Ribble*, which enters this county at *Cleithero*, and, running by *Preston*, receives the *Darron* below Sir Henry Philip Hoghton's seat, and then journeys on to the sea; and the *Irwell*, which runs through *Manchester*, where it is joined by the little river *Irk* (famous for fine Eels). The *Roch* passes *Bury*; and the *Wire*, *Garstang* and *Poulton*. There are also the *Lone*, or *Lun*, which rises in this county, and runs by *Lancaster* into the sea, and the *Calder*, which also rises in this county, and runs into *Yorkshire*, where it joins the river *Aire*.

These rivers afford great plenty of fish. Not far from Lancaster and Preston I have often taken very large Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, &c. till I have been fairly tired.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

This county is well furnished with rivers, the chief of which are, the *Soar*, which rises in the western part of the county; as do also the *Avon*, the *Anker*, and the *Wel-*
land.

land. These rivers form four different courses. The *Soar* first runs north east by *Leicester*, till it receives a small river called *Wreke*; it then turns to the north west, and falls into the *Trent*, where *Leicestershire*, *Derbyshire*, and *Nottinghamshire* meet. The *Avon* takes a course towards *Warwickshire*; the *Anker* runs north west to the same county; and the *Welland* has a north east course to *Harborough*. There is also the river *Swift*.

A sportsman may meet with good diversion in many parts of these rivers. Near Leicester I have often had tolerable success; but the farther from the towns, the better the diversion.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Trent*, which passes the western edge of the county by *Littleborough* and *Grimby*, after which it loses itself in the *Humber*, the northern boundary; the *Welland*, which parts the county from *Northamptonshire*, and, run-

ning through *Stamford*, *Crowland*, and *Spalding*, at last falls into the German Ocean ; and the *Witham*, which rises in the north west part of the county, takes a northern course to *Lincoln*, where it is enlarged by what is called the *Fosse-Dyke*, and, turning to the south east, falls into the sea below *Boston*. There are also the rivers *Nyne*, or *Nen*, which runs by *Crowland* above mentioned, and the *Aukam*, which is famous for Eels. The other rivers produce plenty of good Salmon, Trout, and other fish. In some of the waters about Lincoln is found that scarce fish the *Rud* or *Finscale*, hereafter treated of in the Second Part.

MIDDLESEX.

The chief river is the *Thames*, which, for its course, navigation, and trade, is said to be unequalled in the known world ; wherefore, conceiving this to be the most proper place for inserting some account of it, I shall proceed to describe its rise and progress,

The

The *Thames* is compounded of two rivers, namely, the *Iſis* and the *Thame* or *Tame*, together with other ſmall ſtreams which run into them. The former of theſe riſes near *Cirenceſter* in *Glouceſterſhire*, and is by ſome called the head of the *Thames*; from that place it takes an eaſterly courſe to *Lechlade* in the ſame county, where it receives the river *Colne*, and becomes navigable; then, running north eaſt to *Oxford*, it receives the *Charwell*; and, turning to the ſouth weſt, runs to *Abingdon*, and thence to *Dorcheſter* in *Oxfordſhire*, where the *Thame*, which riſes in *Buckinghamſhire*, joins it. Thus, uniting their names with their ſtreams, they make a beautiful river, which is thence called by the ſingle name of *Thames*; and, taking a courſe by the borders of the ſeveral counties of *Berks*, *Buckinghamſhire*, *Middleſex*, *Surrey*, *Effex*, and *Kent*, joins the *Medway* in the mouth of the Britiſh Ocean. The tide flows above *Richmond*, which is more than ſeventy miles from the ſea; and from its mouth to *Lechlade* (where the *Iſis* firſt be-

comes navigable) is about two hundred and thirty miles.

The Thames produces Salmon, (though in a great quantity,) which are generally taken about Isleworth. These are accounted better than those of any other river in England, and bring a most extravagant price in the London markets; though, in my opinion, they are no better in quality than those taken in many other rivers, only that they are eaten in greater perfection, being caught so near the metropolis: whereas those brought from other places become strong, and lose their proper flavour before they can be exposed to sale in London; for I am persuaded that Salmon cannot be used too fresh.

This river produces numbers of other fish, such as Trout, Pike, Perch, Carp, Roach, Dace, Chub, Barbel, Gudgeons, and Flounders; and abounds with Eels and Lampreys,

In the Calna, near Uxbridge in this county, good Trouts are to be taken; the river abounding with streams suitable to the purpose of angling. It also produces fine Eels and other fish.

MONMOUTH.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

This county may well boast of its rivers, by which it is better watered than most others; the chief of these are, the *Wye*, which parts the county from *Gloucestershire*, and runs by the town of *Monmouth* till it joins the *Severn*; the *Monnow*, or *Mynow*, which divides it from *Herefordshire*, and, running on the other side of *Monmouth*, joins the *Wye*; the *Runney*, which parts it from *Glamorganshire*; and the *Ush*, a beautiful river, which enters this county a little above *Abergavenny*, and runs mostly southward till it falls into the *Severn* by the mouth of the *Ebwaith*; which last runs on the western side of the county. Beside these, there are the rivers *Trotty* at *Monmouth*, the *Lug* at *Chepstow*, and the *Gavenny* at *Abergavenny*.

All these rivers abound with fish, and afford excellent sport, as I have often experienced. The Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, and Grayling, taken here, are very fine, excepting only the Salmon of the Ush, which are

but indifferent, particularly from *Abergavenny* upwards.

N. B. The *Lug* is most noted for *Grayling*.

NORFOLK.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Ouse*, which divides it from *Suffolk* and *Cambridgeshire*, and passes by *Lynn* to the sea; the *Waveney*, which rises within a small distance of the *Ouse*, in the southern edge of the county, and becomes the boundary on the south east, between *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*; and the *Yare*, which rises near the centre of the county, runs eastward through *Norwich* to *Yarmouth*, where it enters the German Ocean. A little above the town of *Yarmouth* the *Yare* and *Waveney* join. There are also the rivers *Thyrn* and *Duze*, which last runs by *Caston* or *Catton*.

These rivers produce fine fish of almost every kind; but their Perch are peculiarly excellent. I have often angled in them, and had good sport.

NORTH-

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The principal rivers in this county are, the *Nyne*, or *Nen*, and the *Welland*. It is also partly watered by the *Ouse*, the *Charwell*, and the *Leam*. The *Nyne*, the *Leam*, and the *Charwell* rise very near each other, not far from *Daventry*: but they form very different courses; the *Leam* running westward, the *Charwell* southward, and the *Nyne* eastward; the latter passing by *Peterborough*, *Higham-Ferris*, *Wellingborough*, and *Warnesford*. The *Welland* rises on the north west side of the county, and divides it from *Leicestershire*, *Rutlandshire*, and *Lincolnshire*. In this county also rises the *Ouse*, which, however, soon leaves it, and enters *Buckinghamshire*. Beside these, there is the river *Wrek*, which runs near *Cossington*.

Good angling for Trouts will be found in many parts of some of these rivers; in others, for Perch, Pike, and other fish; and in the Charwell for the Rud,

NORTH-

NORTHUMBERLAND.

This is a well-watered county, the principal rivers being the *Tyne*, the *Tweed*, and the *Cocket*. The *Tyne* rises with two arms, at a considerable distance from each other : but a little above *Hexham* they become united. *South Tyne* has its rise in *Cumberland*, but soon enters this county ; runs northward for some distance, and then turns easterly. *North Tyne* rises from a place called *Tyne Dale*, in the western part of the county ; then, taking a course south east, joins *South Tyne* near *Hexham* before mentioned, and thence takes its way easterly by *Newcastle* into the sea. The *Tweed* divides this county from *Scotland*, where it has its source, and, after having entered this county, journeys on north easterly to *Berwick*, where it enters the German Ocean. The *Cocket* passes *Felton Bridge*, where are taken excellent *Trout*. There are also, in this county, the rivers *Wents-Beck*, which runs by *Morpeth*, and the

the *Alne*, which passes by the town of *Almwick*.

All these rivers abound with fish. At Berwick are taken vast quantities of Salmon, which are pickled and sent to London by contract. With this the markets are chiefly supplied: but it goes under the appellation of Newcastle Salmon, though I am confident that very few, if any, cured there.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is, the *Trent*, (so called, as is said, from its producing thirty kinds of fish; or, more probably, from its reception of thirty lesser rivers,) which has its fountain-head in *Staffordshire*, and, after running a course of two hundred miles, augments the turbulent river *Humber*. It enters this county at the south west point, where it joins the *Erwasb*; running to the eastward till it reaches *Newark*, it there forms an island, and then turns to the northward into *Lincolnshire*. The *Idle* has its spring in
Sherwood

Sherwood Forest, runs through the northern parts of the county, passing *East* and *West Retford*, to the borders of *Yorkshire* and *Lincolnshire*, where it joins the *Trent*.

The Trent is famous for angling. It produces some Salmon, and abounds with Trout, Grayling, Pike, Perch, and other fish. I have had many days diversion in this water, and have never failed taking fish in abundance, even when others have been out for nearly the whole day without taking any; which they imputed to its being what they termed a bad day for the sport. There is good fishing near the towns of Nottingham and Newark.

OXFORDSHIRE.

This county is well watered by rivers; the principal of which (beside the *Thames*) are, the *Ifis*, the *Tame*, and the *Charwell*; which latter, after it has, for a time, parted this county from *Northamptonshire*, passes through the middle of it till it joins the *Ifis*. In this part of the river the *Rud* are generally

generally more plentiful than higher up. There are also the *Windrush* and the *Evenlode*.

All these rivers produce some Trout, excellent Pike and Perch, and abundance of common fish. They are also famous for fine Eels.

RUTLANDSHIRE,

Though the smallest county in England, is well watered ; for, besides the river *Wel-land*, which washes the south and south east borders, and the *Wasb*, which divides the county from east to west, there are many smaller rivers that fall into them on every side.

The fish taken in these waters are exceedingly good and plentiful, which makes amends for the want of sea fish, occasioned by the county lying so far inland.

SHROPSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is the *Severn*, which I have before noticed in the account of the rivers of *Gloucestershire* :
but

but it being the river in which I first learned the art of Angling in this county, I shall say something more of it here.

The *Severn* (in this shire) is a very beautiful river. It often overflows its banks, and runs with great violence, owing to the rains, which at times descend in such torrents from the hills in Wales as occasion its sudden rise. Upon the weather clearing up, it falls nearly as fast as it rose before, till it comes within its bounds, and soon becomes clear : for, except at such times of overflow, it is as fine and clear a water, abounding with streams, as any that this island can boast of. Fine *Salmon* is taken near *Shrewsbury* ; and numbers of these fish run up the river quite into *Wales*. The *Salmon* of the *Severn* are (I believe) sooner in season than those of any other river that we have in *England*, though not so early as in some parts of *Scotland* and *Ireland*. Near the town above mentioned I have often caught fine *Salmon-Trout*, *Trout*, *Grayling*, *Pike*, *Percb*, *Carp*, *Chub*, *Roach*, and *Dace* in abundance ;

abundance; *Ruffs*, *Gudgeons*, *Flounders*, and *Eels*; also *Salmon-Fry*, and *Gravlings*, or *Gravel-last-springs*; which latter in this part of the country are called *Sampsons*. Amusing myself one day with taking these small but very nice fish with an artificial fly made to a single hair, and a fine line tied to the top of a slender rod, I rose and hooked a large fish, which at first I took to be a Chub, but soon found my mistake by his play. He now began to run very hard, and I was awkwardly situated (for I had risen him over some willows, and had no wheel to give him line), which made me fearful of losing my fish, and part of my line into the bargain; for at that time I was not more than ten years of age. He next took a turn down the stream, which enabled me to extricate myself from the obstruction of the willows. Instantly afterwards I had a large ditch to cross, which I leaped, keeping my fish in good play at the same time. Here I had no obstruction, and my diversion became highly pleasing. The contest lasted full

twenty minutes, when he fairly gave it up, and I, retreating with caution, gradually led him towards the shore, till at last I brought him flat upon some gravel, where the water did not cover him (for I had not a landing-net); then, laying down my rod, I took him with my fingers in his gills, and carried him in triumph some distance from the water, before I noticed what kind of fish it was. My companion (a youth) then exclaimed, "It is a *Salmon*!" I answered, "No,—it is a *Grayling*;" and such it proved, and perhaps the largest and finest grown fish of the kind ever taken by any means in any river in this kingdom, weighing full five pounds.

The river *Tame*, or *Temd*, which passes by the town of *Ludlow* in this county, and falls into the *Severn* near *Worcester*, abounds with fine *Trout* and *Grayling*, of which kinds I have taken, with a fly, between nine and ten dozen in a day's fishing. The *Wevel* also rises in this county, and runs north to *Cheshire*. *Terne Brook*, which empties itself into the *Severn* about
four

four miles below *Shretesbury*, produces excellent fish, particularly *Perch*, which are astonishingly large, seldom weighing less than two pounds, and commonly from three to four. This water, from the *Severn* a considerable way upwards, is the property of the present Lord Berwick, whose grandfather (Mr. Hill) permitted me (when a boy) to angle in any part of it, where I have often taken so many of these noble *Perch*, that I have gone a mile or two round rather than pass by that gentleman's hall, as if conscious that I had made too shameful a slaughter.

There is also fine angling in Lee Brook, about two miles from Wem in this county, wherein are plenty of good Pike, Perch, Eels, &c.

There are some good Trout-streams too about *Cundover*, the water of Owen Smythe Owen, Esq. where I have taken many fine Trouts. In the *Chunn Water* also I have taken great numbers; but they are of that kind which do not grow over-large. Here you may often take barren

Trouts, that shall be perfectly good all winter, when others are good for nothing.

There are likewise some Trouts, Ruffs, Carps, and common fish to be taken in *Meel Brook*. The Eels in this water are very fine also.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

This county is well watered with rivers; for, beside the mouth of the *Severn*, there are, the *Avon*, which enters this county between four and five miles to the south east of *Bath*, is the boundary between it and *Gloucestershire*, and, passing by *Bristol*, runs into the mouth of the *Severn*; the *Brent*, which rises on the eastern edge of the county, and runs to the westward by *Glastonbury*, below which it becomes a large lake, and then runs into the river *Parret*; the *Parret* rises on the southern edge of the county, and receives in its course (which it takes northward) the *Yeovil* and the *Tone*, then, passing by *Bridgewater*, falls into the *Bristol Channel*.

There

There are also, the *Brews*, which runs by *Bruton* ; the *Parr*, which passes *Langport* and *South Petherton* ; and the *Ivel*, which runs by *Iwelchester*, now called *Ilchester*.

There is good angling for Trout about Mitford, three or four miles above Bath, as I have often experienced ; and most of these rivers produce other good fish and fine Eels.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Trent*, which is accounted the third river in England, and has its source among the *Moorlands* in the north west part of the shire, but being soon augmented by several rivulets, as well as the *Sow* and *Eccleshall Water*, passes *Stone* and many other towns in this county, and runs easterly to *Derbyshire* ; the *Dove*, which rises in the northern part of this county, forms the boundary between it and *Derbyshire*, and joins the *Trent* ; and the *Sow*, which rises a few miles to the west of *Newcastle-under-Line*, and, running by *Stafford*,

to the south east, falls into the *Trent*. There is also the river *Tame*, which runs by *Tamworth*.

These rivers contain plenty of fish, which afford much sport to the Angler, more particularly the Trout and Grayling in the Trent,

SUFFOLK.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Waveney*, the *Deben*, the *Orwell*, and the *Stour*. The *Waveney* rises on the northern edge of the county, and, running to the north east, after passing *Beccles* (at which place I have caught many fine fish) forms two branches, one of which runs to the east nearly to *Leostoff*, where it makes a stop without reaching the sea, the other runs with an angle to the north, and falls into the *Tara* near *Tarmouth*. The *Deben* rises a little to the westward of *Debenham*, and runs eastward to *Wickham*, winds round that town, and journeys to the sea. The *Orwell* rises near *Wulpit*, and runs eastward to the same sea. The *Stour* rises

on the edge of Cambridgeshire, and runs mostly eastward till it falls into the sea with the *Orrwell* at *Harwich*. There are also the *Ald*, which runs near the east side of *Aldburgh*; the *Blyth*, which runs through *Haleworth* and *Southwold*; the *Larke*, which runs by *Bury St. Edmund's* to *Mil-den-Hall*; and the *Breton*, which passes by *Lavenham*.

There is good angling in this county; as most of these rivers contain excellent fish of different kinds, abundance of Eels, and some Crawfish.

SURREY.

The chief rivers of this county (beside the Thames) are, the *Mafey* or *Mole*, the *Wey*, and the *Wandle*. The *Mafey* rises on the southern borders of Surrey, and takes a course mostly south east. At the foot of *Box-Hill*, near a village called *Mickleham*, this river works its way under ground like a *mole* (from which remarkable circumstance it is supposed to have taken its name), rising again near *Leather-*
head,

head, where its wandering streams are again united, and form a tolerably large river, running under *Leatherhead Bridge* to *Cobham* and *Molesey*, where it joins the *Thames*. The *Wey* rises in *Hampshire*, and enters this county near *Farnham*, increasing in width till it is past *Godalmin*, and running mostly southward by *Guildford* till it joins the *Thames* at *Oatlands*.

Carshalton, a village in this county, is situate among innumerable springs of water, which altogether form a small river in the very center of the town, and, joining other springs which come from *Croydon* and *Beddington*, form the river *Wandle*, which runs on by *Mitcham* and *Tooting* till it falls into the *Thames* at *Wandsworth*.

I have taken very good fish in the Molesey; but in the Wandle, which is famous for its Trout, I have taken some dozens in a day's angling.

SUSSEX.

This county has many rivers, the principal of which (beside the *Medway*) are,
the

the *Arun*, the *Adur*, the *Ouse*, and the *Rother*. The *Arun* rises in *St. Leonard's Forest* near *Horsham*, and, after running westward, turns to the south, and passes by *Arundel*, two or three miles below which it falls into the sea. The *Adur* has its spring in the same *Forest* as the former, and runs nearly the same course, till it approaches the sea; it then turns a few miles to the east, and becomes the harbour of *New Shoreham*. The *Ouse* rises from two branches, one of which has its spring in the said *Forest*, the other in the forest of *Worth*; but they soon unite to the south near *Lewes*, and run to the sea. The *Rother* rises near *Rotherfield*, and runs mostly eastward; but a few miles to the north of *Rye* it makes an angle to the south, and, falling into the sea, forms *Rye Haven*. There are also the *Crook* and the *Lavant*, which run near *Chichester*.

These rivers have their share of fish of various kinds. In the Arun is caught that much-esteemed fish called Mullet. They run from the sea in large shoals; and their feeding

ing

ing (as is supposed) upon a particular weed that grows in the river, gives them that delicious taste for which they are so highly esteemed. I have angled in these rivers with good success.

WARWICKSHIRE.

This county has several good rivers ; the principal of which are, the *Avon*, which rises in *Leicestershire*, and enters this county a little above *Rugby* ; whence running mostly south west, and passing *Warwick*, *Stratford*, and *Bitford*, it enters *Worcestershire* ; the *Tame*, which, upon entering this county, runs eastward till it receives the *Blyth*, and then takes a course northward ; and the *Arrow*, which rises in *Worcestershire*, and, crossing the west south west borders of this county, joins the *Avon* near *Bitford*. There are also, the *Anker*, which runs by *Atherston* and *Nuneaton* ; the *Cole*, which runs by *Colehill* ; and the *Sherburn*, near *Coventry*.

I have

I have often caught many dozens of fine fish in the Avon near Warwick. There is also good angling in some of the other rivers of this county.

WESTMORELAND.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Eden*, the *Lone*, and the *Kan*, or *Ken*. The *Eden*, which rises on the eastern borders of the shire, runs chiefly north west by *Appleby*, and, after receiving eight other rivers, enters *Cumberland*. The *Lone* rises not far from the *Eden*, and, running some little way to the eastward, passes by *Lonsdale* and *Kirby-Steven*, takes its course towards the south, and enters *Lancashire*. The *Kan* flows from a lake called *Kan* or *Kent Meer*, and, running through *Kendal*, (which takes its name from the river,) soon falls into the sea. There is also the river *Lowther*, which rises at *Mow-hill*, and runs by *Lowther*. I cannot help mentioning in this place the remarkable water called *Winander-Meer*,
situate

situate among the mountains in the southern part of this county, said to be the greatest lake in England, and to have received its name from the *Saxons* on account of its winding banks. It is more than ten miles in length, and rocky at bottom, something similar to a pavement. In it are taken the *Charr*, before mentioned in my account of the waters of *Cumberland*.

In the Kan, a little below Kendall, I have had fine diversion with the Salmon-Trout, which run up the river from the sea. There is also plenty of other Trout in these rivers, their bottoms being mostly rocky, and their streams swift.

WILTSHIRE.

This county is pleasantly watered with rivers; the principal of which are, the Upper and Lower *Avon*, the *Nadder*, the *Willy*, the *Bourne*, and the *Kennet*. The *Upper Avon* rises from a great ridge of hills which divide the county into north and south, and passes southward through many

many villages to *Ambresbury*. The *Lower Avon* has its rise in the northern edge of this shire, and passes by the *Devizes*, *Malmesbury*, *Chippenham*, and *Bradford*. The *Nadder* rises in the south west part of the county, and runs by *Chilmark*. The *Willy* rises near *Warminster*, and runs by *Tarnbury*, *Orchestra*, and *Wilton*. The former of these rivers and the two latter unite their streams at or near *Salisbury*, and then pass on to *Christchurch* in *Hampshire*, taking with them the *Bourne*, which springs in the easternmost part of *Wiltshire*, and, by running south west, joins them below *Salisbury*. The *Kennet* has its spring head in the middle of the county not far from *Marlborough*, which it passes, and takes a course eastward to *Berkshire*.

These rivers abound with good Trout, Grayling, and other fine fish; and I have had excellent diversion in them. About Salisbury, particularly, I have taken some scores of Trout and Grayling.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Severn*, which enters it on the north west side, taking a course to the southward, and, passing by *Worcester* and *Upton*, soon enters Gloucestershire; the *Tame*, which, entering this county on the west border, has a course to the south east till it joins the *Severn*, which it does about two miles below *Worcester Bridge*; and the *Avon*, which enters the east side of the county, passing by *Perthore* and *Evesham*, and leaves it again at the southernmost point. There are also, the river *Salwarp*, which runs through *Droitwich* and *Bromsgrove*, and the *Stour*, which passes *Kidderminster* and *Stourbridge*.

In these rivers are to be taken Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, Grayling, and most other river fish. I have caught very good Trout and Grayling in the Tame, near Mr. Berkley's seat, about three miles from Worcester ;

cester ; and at Broadhurst, between five and six miles. I have also taken some fine Trout in the Stour, near Kidderminster. The Lampreys in the Severn, taken between the cities of Worcester and Gloucester, are large and excellent ; and great quantities of Lampreys are taken and potted in these cities.

YORKSHIRE.

This county is watered by an abundance of rivers ; the principal of which are, the *Humber*, though this is not properly a distinct river, as not having a spring-head of its own, but rather the mouth or receptacle of divers other rivers, especially the *Trent*, the *Ouse*, the *Darwent*, the *Don*, the *Aire*, the *Calder*, the *Wharfe*, and the *Swale*, that uniting their streams form the *Humber*, which is the most violent current in all the island, and at last falls into the German Ocean between *Yorkshire* and *Lincolnshire* ;—the *Trent*, which has been particularly noticed before ; the *Ouse*, which rises on the west

north west side of the county, takes a course of some length to the south east, dividing the city of *York* into two parts; the *Darwent*, which divides the North and East Ridings, rises in the north east part of the county near the sea, and runs south and south west till it joins the *Ouse*; the *Don*, or *Dun*, which rises among the hills near the south west end of *Yorkshire*, runs southward by *Rotherham*, where it receives the river *Rother*, then, passing on to *Sheffield*, turns to the north east by *Doncaster*, and, having received the *Aire*, runs into the *Ouse*; the *Calder*, which has its spring in *Lancashire*, enters this county on the south west side, and runs eastward into the *Aire*; the *Aire*, which has its source at the bottom of a high hill that goes by the name of *Pennigent Hill*, runs to the east by *Skipton*, *Bradford*, and through *Leeds*, joining the *Calder* at *Castleford Bridge* near *Pontefract*, and afterwards joining the *Don* (which river has a thousand windings, and from *Skipton* to *Gargrave* is passed over eight times

within three miles); the *Wharfe*, which springs among the hills in the western part of the county, and runs with a violent stream chiefly to the south east till it enters the *Ouse*; the *Swale*, which rises among the hills in the north west part of Yorkshire, runs to the south east by *Richmond*, and joins the river *Ure* a little below *Borough-bridge*, then, running on to *Rippon*, divides the North and West Ridings. There are also, the *Hull*, which rises in this county, and runs near *Beverley*; the *Tees*, which rises in the county of *Durham*, and, running easterly through *Gisborough*, discharges itself into the German Ocean; the *Ribble*, which is much noted for its Salmon, rises out of a place called *Ribbledale*, and runs into Lancashire; and the *Rhy*, which runs through *Malton*.

There is in the East Riding of this county a small but rapid stream called *Duffield* or *Driffeld Beck*, which produces as fine Trout as any river in England, seldom weighing less than two pounds, and frequently five or six.

Most of these rivers produce good Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, Pike, Perch, Eels, and Crawfish (with the latter of which the river Ure abounds); and also plenty of common fish.

The river Humber is said to produce the greatest quantity of that sort of fish which in this part of the country is called the Golden Umber, and in other counties Grayling; and though some are of opinion that they really are a different species of fish, yet I am convinced that they are not, but that different counties give them these separate names.

I have often taken good fish in the river Hull near Beverley, famous for large Pike, which are often caught from seven to eighteen pounds in weight. In some of the lakes in this county (and, if I recollect right, in those of Holderness,) are taken the Rud or Finscale.

NORTH WALES.

ANGLESEY, ISLE OF.

The chief rivers are, the *Brant*, which rises in the east side of the island, and, running mostly south west, falls into the *Mineu*; the *Alow*, which also has its rise in this county, and, after a winding course of some length, loses itself in the Irish sea; and the *Keveny*, which springs from a high hill to the north of *Coydana*, and enters the sea on the south west side of the island.

There is an abundance of fine fish in these rivers, particularly of Salmon-Trout, which are by some called Sea Trout. These run up the rivers from the sea in great numbers all the summer, and afford good diversion to the angler, as I have experienced.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is the *Conway*, which rises from a lake where this shire, Denbighshire, and Merionethshire join, (being the boundary between the two first,) and, running northward, becomes remarkably wide near Aberconway, at which place it discharges itself into the sea.

There are in this county some excellent rivers for angling, particularly near Bangor.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Clwyd*, which rises in the center of the shire, and, taking a circular course to the south east, afterwards turns to the northward, till it enters *Flintshire*, and then falls into the Irish sea; the *Elwy*, which has its source on the south west edge of the county, and runs mostly towards the north east into *Flintshire*, where it falls into the *Clwyd*; and the *Dee*, which runs from

from *Merionethshire* into this county, and becomes the boundary between it and *Cheeshire*.

These rivers afford good diversion to an angler, which I have more than once enjoyed.

FLINTSHIRE.

This county is watered by many rivers, the chief of which are, the *Clwyd*, the *Elwy*, the *Wheeler*, the *Dee*, the *Sevion*, and the *Alen*; all which afford great quantities of good fish. The *Clwyd* and the *Elwy* unite their streams at St. Asaph, where I have caught many excellent Trout of a superior flavour to those taken in *England*.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Dee*, the *Avon*, and the *Drurydh*. The *Dee*, which has its rise in this county, is supposed to pass through the lake called *Pemle-Meer* without mixing its waters

with those of the lake, which is a large water, and abounds with a much-esteemed kind of fish called a *Guiniad*, as the *Dee* does with *Salmon*; and yet it is very remarkable, that there are never any *Salmon* taken in the *Lake*, nor any *Guiniad* in the *River*. After the *Dee* leaves this water, it takes a north east course into *Denbighshire*. The *Avon* has its spring in *Berose-Wood*, on the east side of the county, and, taking a north westerly course, loses itself in *St. George's Channel*. The *Drurydb* flows from a *Lake* in the north of this county, and, taking a course to the south west, runs into the Irish sea.

All these rivers produce great plenty of fish, particularly of the Salmon and Trout kind, of which I have taken many.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

This county is exceedingly well watered by a number of small rivers, which run from all quarters of it into the *Severn*, a river which adds greatly to the beauty of the
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the country where it has its spring from the first mountain of Plinlimmon, and of which I have spoken before. The rivers *Rhydel* and *Wye* issue from the same mountain, but soon leave the county. The *Tenat*, which rises towards the north west side of the county, takes a course to the eastward, and becomes part of the northern boundary between this shire and Denbighshire, and falls into the *Severn* at the north east point of the county. The *Turgh* has its source on the western side of the shire, and runs eastward till it comes to the foot of Mount Golway, where it turns to the north, and, after receiving the river *Wurway*, falls into the *Tenat*.

An angler meets with excellent sport in these rivers, which have great quantities of choice fish, of which I have had a share.

SOUTH WALES.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE or BRECONSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Uk*, which rises from a spring on the east of the Black Mountain in the south west part of the county, takes a course to the north, and then, turning to the east, enters Monmouthshire; the *Wye*, which forms the north boundary between this county and Radnorshire, and then runs into Herefordshire; the *Ivon*, which rises among the mountains to the north west, runs at first to the south, and afterwards north easterly into the *Wye*; the *Tavye*, which issues from the foot of the Black Mountain above mentioned, and runs into Glamorganshire; as does the *Rumney*, soon after its rise in this county.

I have caught many dozens of fine Trout near the town of Brecon, and in other places of this county; but the Salmon taken in the Uk are not accounted so good as others,

There is a large water about the middle of the county, called Brecknock-meer, which is some miles over, and contains such quantities of fish, that it is common to hear the people say, that there are only two-thirds water to one of fish.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Toway*, which enters this county on the north east side, runs mostly south and south west through *Carmarthen*, and afterwards falls into the Bristol Channel; the *Cotley*, which runs mostly from north to south, till it joins the *Toway*; the *Teivy*, or *Tavey*, which has its source in Cardiganshire, and is the boundary between that county and this, till, having received the river *Keach*, it divides this county from Pembroke-shire.

In these rivers are taken fine Salmon, Salmon-Trout, Trout, and other good fish. I have had excellent diversion in the Toway, from the Bishop's seat, down to near Carmarthen; particularly in taking a kind of Trout,

Trout, called by the inhabitants of this country Sewen or Souen, which are here very much esteemed, and afford great sport to the angler ; yet it is very remarkable, that the people here never knew of any being taken by angling till the first time that I angled in this water ; and many have been very much surpris'd at seeing me take, in an afternoon, from a dozen to eighteen or twenty of them, with an artificial fly.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Toway*, which rises in this county, and runs into Carmarthenshire ; the *Teivy*, which rises from a hill of the same name in the eastern part of the county, parts it from Pembrokehire, and, running for some length among rocks and stones, loses the appearance of a river ; after which, however, it begins to have a regular channel, and then, running towards the south west, loses itself in St. George's Channel below Cardigan ; and the *Rhydel*, which has its source on the south west side

of Plinlimmon Hill before mentioned, runs towards the south west of this county, and falls into the same channel. The *Istwyth*, which has its spring near the lead-mines on the north-east side of the county, also falls into St. George's Channel with the *Rhydel*.

These rivers produce great plenty of fish. The Teivy is very remarkable for its Salmon. Here also I have had admirable sport.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Avon*, which rises among the hills in the northern part of this county, and discharges itself into the Bristol Channel; the *Rumney*, which is soon claimed by this county, becomes the boundary between it and Monmouthshire, and at last falls into the mouth of the *Severn*; the *Ogmore*, which rises in the northern boundaries of this county, runs to the southward through the middle of it, into the Bristol Channel; and the *Tavye*, which enters at the north west of the county,

county, and runs towards the south west, till it joins the Bristol Channel at Swansea. There is also the *Elri*, and many other small streams.

The rivers here have great variety of fish, and to my knowledge afford good angling.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

This county has several fine rivers; the principal of which are, the *Teivy*, which parts it from Carmarthenshire; the *Clethy*, which flows from Wrenyaur-hill, and, taking a south west course, joins the river *Dougladye*; and the *Dougladye*, which springs near the middle of the county, and, after having joined the *Cledbwen*, passes by *Haverfordwest*, and at length, receiving the *Clethy*, continues its course to *Milford-haven*, where it joins the salt water.

All these are good Trout rivers, and have plenty of other fish.

RADNORSHIRE.

This county is well watered; for, beside the *Tame* or *Temd*, which on the north east divides this county from Shropshire, and the *Wye*, which washes the west side, there are, the *Ithon*, which rises in the north of the county, and, winding towards the south west, after having received several streams, joins the *Wye*; and the *Somergil*, which runs near the town of *Radnor*. Several other streams also arise in this county, run into Shropshire and Herefordshire, and afford good fish; and the rivers in general abound with such excellent Trout and Grayling, that it is delightful to angle in them. Indeed all the rivers of Wales, both north and south, have great variety of fish.

S C O T L A N D.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Dee* and the *Don*. It is bounded on the south by the former, which, after a long course, runs through the New Town of *Aberdeen*, and then falls into the sea. The *Don*, which passes by *Kintore* and *Inverury*, has a winding course of many miles, and falls into the sea just below the *Old Town* of *Aberdeen*, which is distant from that of the *New Town* somewhat more than a mile; and though these rivers join the sea so near each other, yet they have such different courses, that a few miles up they are considerably apart. These excellent rivers produce such quantities of fine fish, as is really astonishing! particularly *Salmon*, which brings in considerable profits to the proprietors of the fisheries, who are united into companies, on account of the great number of shares, of which no person can hold above one
at

at a time. The *Dee* produces more Salmon than the *Don*, but the latter has the most Trout, which I am convinced are better than those taken in any other river within my knowledge, either in Great Britain or Ireland. I have often caught many dozens of these fine Trout; and once, in particular, astonished several gentlemen of *Aberdeen* (who were no strangers to the art of angling) by taking a fine dish of them at a time when the snow-water from the hills came down the river in abundance, being a cold day about the middle of March.

I have also caught fine Salmon, Grills, and Whitlings in these rivers, and other fish of the Salmon kind, which afford much sport to the angler.

There are also, the beautiful river *Deveron*, which runs round one side of the town of *Strathbogie*; and the river *Bogie*, which surrounds the other side, and then joins the *Deveron*.

These rivers are both famous for Trout.

AYRSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Aire*, which has a long course, with its banks beautifully adorned with woods and gentlemen's seats, and, running mostly from east to west, falls into the sea; the *Coil*, which falls into the river *Aire* about four miles above the town of *Ayr*; the *Stincher*, the *Girven*, and the *Irvin*, the last of which divides *Ayr* from *Cunningham*. By these rivers and several smaller streams this county is well watered; beside which, there is an extensive lake called *Dun*, some miles in length and breadth, with an island, whereon is an old castle of the same name.

These rivers yield very fine fish, particularly Salmon and Trout.

ARGYLESHIRE or INVERARY.

This county has a remarkable number of *lochs* or *lakes* which abound with fish. *Loch-Aw*, between twenty and thirty miles in length, and in some places only one in breadth,

breadth, is said to contain twelve islands. From it issues a river called *Aw*, which runs a course of some few miles, then enters *Loch-Ediff* (which is much noted for Salmon), and afterwards falls into the western sea not far from the *Isle of Mull*. *Loch-Leven* is a water of great extent and full of fish. There are also several rivers in the *Isle of Arran* that abound with *Salmon* and *Trout*; beside which there are many rivers in other parts of the shire.

BANFFSHIRE.

This county is well watered by several fine rivers; the chief of which are, the *Spey*, a noble, rapid river, which runs on the west through this shire, passing by *Gordon Castle*, the town of *Fochabers*, and other places of note; the *Dover*n or *De-veron*, which runs on the east, a branch of which passes through the town of *Keith*, and becomes very broad before it reaches the town of *Banff*, below which it meets the sea; and the *Ugie*, which runs

on the south, and divides it from *Aberdeenshire*.

These rivers, especially the Spey, abound with Salmon and other fine fish.

BERWICKSHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Tweed*, a beautiful large river, by which the county is partly bounded on the south; the *Lauder*, which runs through a town of the same name, and past *Lauderfort*, the seat of the noble family of the *Maitlands*, keeping its course due north; the *Eye*, which runs by *Ayeton*, and joins the sea at *Eyemouth*. There is also the *Black Water* and the *White Water*.

All of these contain many kinds of fish in abundance.

BUTESHIRE AND CAITHNESS.

The river or water of *Thurso* gives name to the town of *Thurso*, which it passes on the east side, and is very famous for *Salmon*,

mon, which are said to keep in the river all the year.

There are numbers of other rivers and lakes in this part of the country, which produce uncommon quantities of fish.

DUMBARTONSHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Clyde* and the *Leven*. By the former the county is partly bounded on the south; the latter runs from *Loch-Lomond*, and joins the *Clyde*, at the confluence of which stands the town of *Dumbarton*. The *loch* above mentioned, which is situate among the mountains, is said to be full twenty-four miles in length and eight in breadth. It contains thirty islands, three of which have churches, and several of the rest are inhabited. It abounds with different sorts of fish, particularly a delicious kind called *Poans* or *Pollac*, a kind of *Eel*.

I have often angled in the river Clyde, and taken fine Salmon, Trout, Perch, and other fish in great plenty.

DUMFRIES.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Annan* and the *Neith*, or *Nid*. The former runs through the middle of the county, passing by *Moffat*, and, receiving several smaller rivers in its course, which is between twenty and thirty miles, runs on to *Annan*, and afterwards falls into the *Solway Firth*. The latter runs from *Loch-Cure*, passing *Dumfries*, and dividing this shire from the *Stewartry of Galloway*, and then joins the *Solway Firth*. There are also many very fine Trout-streams that run into these rivers.

Near Dumfries and Annan I have taken large quantities of fine fish. The rivers abound with excellent Salmon, Trout, &c.; but the Annan is much the best for angling.

EDINBURGHSIRE, OR MID LOTHIAN.

The river *Leith*, commonly called the *Water of Leith*, rises some considerable distance above Edinburgh, runs very rapidly

pidly after rains ; has a winding course, in which it passes by the *castle* of the city, and joins the *Firth* at *Leith*. It is a small river upwards, from a little above *Leith*, and in the midst of summer is nearly dry, except where there are mill-pools.—I have taken very fine *Trout* in many parts of this water, and often near Edinburgh. There is also a river called *Esk*, which passes the town of *Dalkeith*, and several others in this county, wherein there is good angling.

ELGINSHIRE.

This county has several fine rivers ; among the principal of which is, the *Spey*, which, next to the *Tay*, is accounted the most considerable in the north of Scotland, and the most rapid of all the kingdom. It has its spring in *Badenoch*, and, exclusive of its turnings and windings, has a course of upwards of seventy miles, falling at last into the North Sea. The *Ness* rises from a lake called *Gaich*, near the *Irish Sea*, from which it

has its name for a few miles; running north easterly, it falls into *Loch-Gariff*, afterwards into a water called *Eawic*, and then, taking a course towards the south east, falls into *Loch-Ness*. The *Loffie* springs a few miles above this county, and falls into the sea a few miles below it, nearly surrounding the town of Elgin in its course, and abounding with Salmon even to the very head. All these rivers have excellent fisheries, wherein are taken every season such vast quantities of *Salmon* and other fish as would seem incredible to a stranger. *Loch-Ness* is about twenty-four miles in length, and said to be of unknown depth. It is likewise remarkable for never freezing.

Many of these lochs are formed of rivers, which, descending from their springs in flowing rills, and augmenting their streams, become rivers; then, meeting with hollow places in their passage (some of them of vast extent among hills), expand into lakes, or lochs, till, finding a proper channel, they resume their form of rivers. Thus will some
of

of them expand several times before they finish their course to the sea.

FIFESHIRE.

This county is watered by several rivers; of which, beside the *Forth* and the *Tay*, the *Leven* and the *Edin* are the chief. The *Leven* flows from *Lough-Leven* at *Kinrofs*, and runs from thence by *Lesly* to *Ely*, a town situated on the west side of its mouth.

The Salmon in this river are esteemed the best in this part of Scotland; and the Lough abounds with Trout from four or five to twelve or fourteen pounds weight.

The *Edin* or *Eden* runs by the county town of *Cowpar*, and is also famous for fish.

FORFARSHIRE, OR ANGUS.

The principal rivers of this county are, the *Tay*, which enters it a little above *Dundee*, a few miles below which it falls into the Firth of *Tay*; and the *North-Est* and *South-Est*, which nearly furround the

town of *Montrose*, and then fall into the northern sea, near four miles distance from each other.

These rivers abound with excellent Salmon and Trout, of which I have taken great quantities in the North-Esk, about four miles from Montrose. Once in particular, so late in the year as the 24th of December, I took (with a fly) a fine dish of Trout, by some called White Trout, but here called Whitlings. They had just run from the sea, and appeared as bright as silver. These fish are greatly esteemed; they afford the angler much sport, and more or less of them are to be found in this river at all times; in the winter, where the tide flows; and in spring and summer, at a distance up the rivers, in the most rapid streams,

HADDINGTONSHIRE, OR EAST LOTHIAN.

The chief rivers of this county are, the *Firth*, which runs to *Dunbar Harbour*, and the *Tyne*, a small though pretty river, which rises from the hills near *Yester*, and, after

after watering a fine and pleasant vale, runs through the town of *Haddington*; near which is good angling for Trout and other fish.

INVERNESS.

The principal river of this shire is the *Nefs*, the particulars whereof have been before mentioned, and which, after quitting *Lough-Nefs*, discharges itself into the *Firth of Murray*, at the bottom of which stands the town of *Inverness*.

In this river are taken larger Salmon, and greater quantities of Trout, than are to be found elsewhere in Scotland.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Dee*, which separates this county from *Aberdeenshire*, and the *North-Esk*, by which it is bounded on the south.

These rivers have been particularly spoken of before.

THE STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT,
OR LOWER GALLOWAY.

The principal rivers are, the *Nith* and the *Dee*. The former has been spoken of before; the latter rises from the mountains near *Carrick*, and joins the sea at *Kircudbright*, having so remarkable a winding course, that, though it is not above seventy miles in a line, it is said to run near two hundred. There is also the *Ken*, which runs through *New Galloway*.

These rivers, with others of less note in this stewartry, produce fine Trout, and afford the angler much sport.

LANARKSHIRE, OR CLYDESDALE.

The principal rivers are, the *Clyde*, the *Annan*, and the *Tweed*; the two former rising from a mountain called *Errick Hill*, and the latter discharging itself into the German Ocean, near the mouth of the *Firth*.

Firth. There is also the river *Douglas*, which falls into the *Clyde* a little below the town of *Lanark*.

These rivers produce good fish.

NAIRNSHIRE.

The principal river is the *Nairn*, which runs on the south west part of the county, and meets the sea below the town of *Nairn*, which stands upon its mouth. There are also the *Calder*, which runs by a castle of the same name, and the *Findhorn*, which runs by a seat of the *Earl of Murray*, called *Tarnaway Castle*. There are beside many *lakes* and smaller *rivers*, that produce prodigious quantities of *Salmon*, *Trout*, and other *fish*.

PEEBLESHIRE, OR TWEEDALE.

The chief river is the *Tweed*, which is said to have given name to the county. It rises at a place called *Tweed's Cross*, runs from west to east through the country, and

and receives several rivers in its course, which it takes by the town of *Peebles*. The river *Yarrow* runs from a loch called *West Water Loch*, which abounds with fish, particularly Eels, of which there are incredible quantities. On the top of a hill called *Genen* is *Lochgenen Lake*, from which a river runs that falls into *Annan-dale* from a precipice computed to be two hundred and fifty feet high, and where many times the *fish* are killed by the fall of the water.

PERTHSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is the *Tay*, a most beautiful water, which, as I have been informed, springs from a small lake, or kind of large basin, on the top of one of the *Breadalbane mountains*, which is supposed to be unfathomable, and wherein are numbers of small *Trout*. From this issue several little rills, but these, soon uniting, become one stream, which runs first to the north through the country of *Breadalbane*,

bane, and there, receiving many other rivers, expands itself into *Loch-Tay*, about twenty miles in length, and seven in breadth; after which, finding a proper channel, it becomes a fine rapid river, taking its name from the *loch*. It nearly surrounds the town of *Dunkeld*, situate at the foot of the *Grampian Hills*; has a long course, traversing the very heart of Scotland (passing *Perth* and *Dundee*), till it enters the sea. The river *Ern* rises far west, on the *frontiers* of the *western hills* near *Glengill*, and, running through the pleasant country of *Strathern*, falls into the *Tay* below *Perth*, after running a course of about thirty-four miles, wherein it passes many gentlemen's seats on both sides of it. The river *Timel* runs near the pass of *Gillicranky*, about fourteen miles from *Dunkeld*. The *Keith*, which is famous for its *Salmon Fishery*, has a cataract near the *Blair* of *Dummond*, the sound of which among the rocks is so loud as nearly to stun those who come
nigh

nigh it. This river also falls into the Tay.

In the Tay, near Perth, I have often taken fine Salmon and Trout, with which this river abounds; and once, in particular, with a fly, I caught more Trout of different kinds than I was able to carry home, weighing from one to three or four pounds each; which much surprised several gentlemen who were thought to be good anglers, and who had been out all that day, and had taken only seventeen.—Another time, being in October, I went up the Tay about four miles, and had but just begun angling when a kind of fleet began to fall; and the faster it came down, the more eagerly the fish took, for about two hours, when I was obliged to quit my station, the fleet terminating in a general snow. By this time, however, I had taken upwards of three dozen of Trout (here called Whitlings), all in good season.

In the Fishery, a little above the bridge at Perth, and opposite Scone House, I have seen seventy-four Salmon taken at one draught,
and

and have been told by the fishermen that they very often take more. These Salmon are cured in the same manner as those taken at Berwick, and sent to London and other markets.

RENFREWSHIRE.

The chief river of this county is, the *Clyde*, which runs on one side of it, passing by *Glasgow*, to the sea, below *Greenock*. There are also the *White Cart* and the *Black Cart*, upon the former of which stands the town of *Paisley*. These waters, uniting their streams, fall into the *Clyde*.

I have taken fine Trout, Perch, and other fish, a few miles above Glasgow.

ROSS.

This county abounds with *lochs* and *rivers* which produce great quantities of fish; and there are fisheries established for taking both river and sea fish; for many of their lochs are properly inlets of the sea,

wherein are taken numbers of white fish, particularly Herrings and Cod.

There is also good angling in the rivers, at a distance from the sea.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.

The principal rivers are, the *Tweed*, the *Tesy*, and the *Jed*. The former of these runs through *Kelfo*, but does not part *Scotland* from *England*, though it passes near the English borders. The two latter unite their streams near *Jedburgh*, which takes its name from the river *Jed*.

An angler may find good sport in these rivers.

SELKIRKSHIRE.

The chief rivers are, the *Ettrick*, which runs through a forest of the same name; the *Tarrow*, before spoken of; and the *Galla-Water*.

These rivers produce plenty of Eels, and some other good fish.

STIRLING-

STIRLINGSHIRE.

The principal river is the *Forth*, which is by some reckoned the most famous, though not the longest river in Scotland. It rises near the hill called *Lomond*, and, running by *Stirling*, takes a remarkably serpentine course, perhaps the most beautiful ever seen in nature. The form of its winding may be conceived by the length of the way, for it is upwards of twenty-four miles from *Stirling* to *Alloa* by water, and scarcely four miles by land. It afterwards joins the *Firth* near *Edinburgh*. There is also the river *Allan*, which runs by the town of *Dumblain*.

These rivers produce Salmon and Trout in abundance. About four miles above Stirling there is as good Trout-fishing as I ever experienced.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

This county has a great many *ivers* and *lochs*; the number of the latter

is said to be above fifty, the largest of which is *Loch-Fin*, near twenty miles long. In short, this county is so well watered by *bays, rivers, and lochs*, that most of their *lakes* are washed with salt or fresh water, as are the Highlands in general, the Orkneys not excepted.

Their waters abound with Salmon, Trout, plenty of Cod and other sea-fish; Eels, and most kinds of shell-fish.

WIGTONSHIRE, OR UPPER GALLOWAY.

This is a mountainous country, and has many *rivers and lochs*, which lie everywhere under the hills, and produce excellent fish of various kinds, particularly prodigious quantities of fine Eels. The river *Loffie* runs near *Port-Patrick*, and affords good angling.

The rivers of Scotland are remarkably clear, and in general abound with large rock-stones, which in many places appear several feet above the surface of the water, and lie very thick together; and the bottoms
and

and banks being frequently lined with the same uneven, rocky substance, causes many violent streams and falls of water. This country has also so many inlets of the sea on every side, that there is scarcely any part of it above forty or fifty miles from some bay, creek, or arm of the ocean: all which circumstances occasion the rivers of Scotland to abound more with Salmon and Trout than those of other countries, where the rivers are more inland, more muddy, and the streams less rapid.

I R E L A N D.

The principal Rivers and Loughs of this country are the following :

The Shannon, as noble a river as any European island can boast of, and which in its course receives many other rivers, takes its rise from a spring among the mountains near Swadlingbar. It then expands into Lough Allen,

Allen, eight or nine miles in length, and four or five in breadth. It afterwards forms *Lough Ree*, about fifteen miles long, and beautifully diversified with about sixty islands; and shortly afterwards expands into a third called *Lough-Derg*, which is still larger, and upon which are about fifty islands; the most extensive of which, called *Ilanmore*, contains about an hundred acres of well-cultivated, fertile land; on another, called *Holy Island*, are the ruins of seven churches and a high round tower. The *Shannon* then runs on to *Limerick*, having in this course many beautiful water-falls; so that in one hundred and twenty-eight miles the fall is one hundred and fifty feet. From this place it is navigable to the sea, which is about sixty-three miles more.

This river (which divides the province of Connaught from Leinster and Munster) after leaving these lakes runs very violently in many places, and abounds with delightful streams, which are frequented by excellent *Salmon* and *Trout*. It also produces the
largest

largest *Pike* and *Eels* that I ever saw, and very fine *Perch*.

Three or four miles above Limerick I have often taken large Salmon, and dozens of fine Trout. There is good angling near the Salmon Fishery, a little above the town; and also below it, near the great bridge.

In this water, particularly in some of the *Loughs*, is taken a species of fresh-water Trout, which never visits the sea, and is called by the people of the country *Gilderoy* or *Gill-a-roë Trout*. They are very large and beautiful, weighing from two or three pounds up to thirty; but what is most surprising in these fish is, their having gizzards within them every way similar to that of a fowl; and those taken from the large *Trouts* are full as large as turkies' gizzards. These fish are much esteemed for their fine flavour, which is superior to that of any other. They are of the same make as other *Trout*, except being thicker in proportion to their length, and much redder, both before and after being dressed.

The *Suire*, the *Neor*, and the *Barrow*, spring from a mountain called *Slieu-Bloom*. The *Suire* flows from a branch of it called *Bein-Duffe*, in the county of *Tipperary*, and runs first to the south-east, then southerly for near forty miles, when it turns to the north and afterwards to the east, and at length receives the *Neor* and the *Barrow*.

This river runs through the towns of Clonmell and Carrick, where there is excellent angling for Salmon and Trout.

The *Neor* rises out of the same branch, and, running to the south east, falls into the *Barrow*. The *Barrow* rises out of the same mountain in the *Queen's County*, and after taking a northerly course turns to the south, and before it reaches *Ross* is joined by the *Neor*; from this place it continues a southerly course under the name of the river of *Ross*, and, being joined by the *Suire*, they all lose themselves in the sea below *Waterford*.

All these rivers produce excellent fish, particularly Salmon and Trout. In the Bar-
row,

row, near Kilkenny and Carlow, there is very good angling.

There is a small river called *Kilmachow* or *Kilmycow River*, which runs by the seat of *Godfrey Greene Esq.* and falls into the *Suire* about two miles above *Waterford*, wherein I have often angled, and never missed taking plenty of good *Trout*. There is also another river, which runs through the park of the Marquis of *Waterford*, and falls into the *Suire* about eight miles above *Waterford*.

I have often fished through his lordship's park, and never failed to meet with good sport.

The *Black-Water*, by some called the *Broad-Water*, springs from a mountain in the county of *Kerry*, and after running some little way to the south, and receiving many streams, takes an easterly direction, till at length, turning suddenly to the south, it continues its course to the *Bay ofoughball*. There are, however, other rivers in this country that are called the *Black-Water*, one of which falls into the

Shannon, another into the *Boyne*, and another (in the county of *Wexford*) runs into the sea.

The river *Bann*, famous for its *Salmon Fishery*, rises out of a mountain in the county of *Down*, and, flowing northward, after a course of near thirty miles, receiving the river *Tanwagee*, falls into *Lough-neagh*, and, passing through it, keeps on a northerly course, dividing the counties of *Antrim* and *Londonderry*, and falls into the sea near *Coleraine*.

The *Lee* flows from a lake in the county of *Cork*, and has an easterly course of about thirty miles; it then becomes much enlarged by the number of streams that it receives, and, passing by *Cork*, discharges itself into the sea.

This river produces excellent fish, particularly Salmon and Trout, the former of which are always in season, like those of the river Wye in England; the latter run very large, and are much esteemed for their fine flavour. I have often angled in this water, and have had excellent diversion. There are also several

veral smaller rivers round about Cork, which afford the angler good sport, particularly at Upper and Lower Glanmire, about four miles from Cork, and Blarney, about three miles.

The *Liffey* rises in the county of *Wicklow*, and takes a circling course through that and the counties of *Kildare* and *Dublin*, passing by *Leixlip*, *Chapel-izod*, and the city of *Dublin*, below which it discharges itself into *Dublin Bay*.

Some good Salmon are taken in this river, and plenty of Trout, of which I have caught many dozens above the city; but they are the worst of their kind that I ever remember to have seen.

There is a small stream, called *Castle-Knock river*, that runs into the *Liffey* below *Dublin*, and out of which I have taken a number of good Trout.

The *Boyns* rises in the *King's County*, and falls into the sea at *Drogheda*. It is a very considerable river, and is famous for excellent *Salmon* and *Trout*.

There

There are also the rivers *Nure*, *Slaine*, and *May*, in the province of *Leinster*;—the *Moy*, in the county of *Mayo*, which, for some way, divides it from *Sligo*, and falls into the Ocean near *Mayo* and *Killalea*; the *Suck*, which divides *Roscommon* from *Galway*, and falls into the *Shannon* near *Clonsfert*; the *Drogha*, a river in the county of *Clare*, which also falls into the *Shannon*; and the *Gall* in *Galway*, which falls into a bay of the same name. This province of *Connaught*, and that of *Ulster*, abound with extensive and beautiful lakes; *Lough-erne* and *Lough-Neagh* are accounted the largest in Ireland; the former has two branches, which extend through the whole county of *Fermanagh*, dividing it into two almost equal parts. It is about thirty miles in length, but of an unequal breadth, and is said to contain four hundred little islands, some of which are inhabited.

This water contains great quantities of fine Salmon and Trout, Pike of a prodigious size, and great numbers of rich Eels.

Lough-

Lough-Neagh is an extremely large lake, being more than twenty miles in length, and about twelve broad, exclusive of *Lough-Beg*, which is joined to the north west end of it by a narrow channel, and is four miles in length and four in breadth. *Lough-Neagh* is very remarkable for receiving ten rivers (most of them very considerable) and several brooks, yet having but one narrow outlet for discharging this great flux of water, and for communicating its benefits to the counties of *Armagh*, *Tyrone*, *Londonderry*, *Antrim*, and *Down*.

This water contains plenty of fine fish, particularly a sort of Trout called Bodach or Ghurl, some of which have been taken that weighed thirty pounds.

Lough-Lene (more commonly called the *Lake of Killarney*) in the province of *Munster* and county of *Kerry*, is remarkable for its singular beauties, being interspersed with a variety of picturesque islands, many of them rich in herbage and well inhabited.

It

It is properly two lakes: the lower is about seven miles long and four broad, and communicates with the upper one by a narrow passage of about three miles in length, a small part of which is not navigable by reason of a shallow descent of the water. The waters that are collected into the upper lake from the mountains, and from the little river *Fleß*, pass into the lower lake, and are thence discharged into the sea, which is distant about twenty miles, by an outlet, or small river, called the *Lane* or *Lene*.

The upper lake is about three miles long and one in breadth, and is quite encompassed with high mountains, the most remarkable of which are those of *Glena* and the *Turk*; and behind these are others still higher, called the *Reeks*. Eight islands embellish this lake. The echos produced by the sound of the French-horn and the explosion of cannon are repeated, and rebound as it were among the mountains; the latter at first resembling loud thunder, dying gradually away and then reviving, till it finally expire.

In these waters is most excellent angling for Trout and other fish.

There are many more *lochs*, some of which are properly inlets of the sea; as *Lough-Foyle*, about fourteen miles long and eight wide, into which the sea flows by a channel about a mile over; the *Lough of Strangford* in the county of Down, which extends from *Newtown* in the north to *Strangford* in the south, near twenty miles, and is in some places more than five miles broad, having about fifty small islands.

There are also, the *Swilly*, in the county of *Donegal*, which falls into the northern ocean; the *Lagan-Water*, in the county of Down, which passes by *Dromore*, *Lisburne*, and *Belfast*, into the bay of *Car-rickfergus*; and the *Newry-Water*, which parts *Down* from *Armagh*, and falls into the bay of *Carlingford*.

I shall here remark, that there are innumerable brooks and rivulets, both in Great Britain and Ireland, which afford the sportsman as much diversion as many of the larger rivers, and that there are several rivers of the same name in each country.

The

The *hospitality* that I have experienced throughout my travels, particularly in Scotland and Ireland, has ever been unbounded, and is justly entitled to my most grateful acknowledgements.

longish, and covered with fine bright thin scales ; the colour on the back is blueish, on the other parts white, and it is very agreeably marked with irregular blackish or reddish-brown spots, even on the head, the covers of the gills, and all the way down on each side, from the lateral lines (which run from head to tail), to near the edge of the back, but very few are to be found on the belly sides of the lines ; and the tail is forked. The female may be distinguished from the male by having a longer snout, and scales that are not quite so bright, with spots more of a darkish brown colour ; the belly also is flatter ; and the flesh is more dry, not so red, nor of so good a flavour.

The Salmon is certainly a fish of prey, having teeth in his mouth, as other fish of prey have, and delighting in pursuing and seizing small fish. It is very remarkable, however, that though a Salmon shall be taken in the very act of chasing and catching the small fry, yet, upon opening it, nothing of that nature will be found within

each fish—How to angle for them in the best and surest ways, and to manage them when hooked.—Rods ; materials for the best ; and the proper tackle for every kind of fish as severally described—Instructions for procuring and preserving the best baits —The best method for those who reside in the country, and wish to make their own rods, of procuring and seasoning stocks and tops for that purpose, and how to make them in the best manner—A proper glue for spliced rods ; and a most excellent varnish, for preventing them from decaying, or being worm-eaten—How to make hair-lines, and to choose hairs, gut, hooks, floats, &c.—Things necessary for the angler to take out with him—The best methods of colouring gut or hair ;—with many other useful, curious, and pleasing subjects ; concluding with a short sketch of some methods for salt-water angling.

Names

*Names of fishes taken by angling in our
rivers, &c.*

1st, Those of passage.

SALMON,
 Salmon-Fry,
 Salmon-Trout,
 Bull-Trout or Scurf,
 Bulger-Trout,
 White Trout, Sewen or Whitling,
 Grayling, Last-spring, Shedder, Gra-
 vel-last-spring, or Sampson,
 Mullet,
 Smelt,
 Barbel,
 Flounder,
 Eel.

2d, Those that do not visit the salt water.

Trout,
 Grayling,
 Pike-Luce or Jack,

H

Perch,

Perch,
 Ruff or Pope,
 Gudgeon,
 Tench,
 Carp,
 Chub, Chevin, Nob, or Botling,
 Rudd or Finscale,
 Bream,
 Roach,
 Dace or Dare,
 Bleak, Bley, or Whiting,
 Minnow,
 Loach,
 Bull-head or Miller's Thumb,
 Stickleback, Banstickle, or Sharp-
 ling.

OF THE SALMON.

THE Salmon may justly be termed,
 among fresh-water fish, the superior of the
 rivers, both as it is the largest in size,
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 a very handsome-made fish; the head is
 small, with a sharpish nose; the body is
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it; nor has it ever been discovered, by opening these fish, what they do subsist on.

The Salmon is a fish of passage, frequenting both the salt and fresh water. Some begin to leave the sea at the latter end of December, others in January and February, and continue running up the rivers more or less till near their spawning time, which is chiefly in the months of September and October; though some spawn before that time, and some after; for I have observed them to be big with roe in January in some countries, and in others in May. They begin to go out of season in July, which may be discovered by their scales appearing rougher and not so bright, and a little blackish about the head; in short, they can never be said to be in perfection when they begin to have roe; from which time they will gradually get worse and worse; and near their spawning time they will turn to a sort of dirty yellowish colour; their flesh will be soft, their beautiful spots vanish; and, after spawning,

ing, they will become black, disagreeable to look at, and appear not like fish of the same kind.

The *Porpus*, or *Sea-Hog*, is a great enemy to Salmon, and will often chase them for a considerable distance up the rivers.

The Salmon always breeds in rivers that have communications with the sea ; but so high up as to have the water pure and free from any brackish tincture. They are very restless, and always endeavouring to get near the spring head ; to effect which, they will leap over weirs and other obstructions, to the astonishment of the beholders ; and thus, in the course of their journey, they fix on convenient places for their purpose, which are generally upon flats, where the bottom is gravel and sand, and the stream moderate, and not over deep ; they also prefer the tails and sides of swift streams. By the time they have accommodated themselves, Nature supplies the males with an *excre-*
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Names

ANGLING

IN

ALL ITS BRANCHES,

Ec. Ec. Ec.

PART THE SECOND.

A description of all the different kinds of fish that are to be taken by angling in the rivers and other waters of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland—Their natures; seasons; spawning times; and, particularly, the ingenious manner in which the Salmon and Trouts make their beds for the purpose of casting their seed therein, &c.—The curious water-falls called Salmon leaps, with an account of the surprising activity and exertion of that fish in leaping—The real manner of Eels breeding—The haunts and feeding-times of each

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Tench,
Carp,
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Rudd or Finscale,
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Dace or Dare,
Bleak, Bley, or Whiting,
Minnow,
Loach,
Bull-head or Miller's Thumb,
Stickleback, Banstickle, or Sharp-
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OF THE SALMON.

THE Salmon may justly be termed, among fresh-water fish, the superior of the rivers, both as it is the largest in size, and the most excellent in its nature. It is a very handsome-made fish; the head is small, with a sharpiſh nose; the body is

9

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cence *, which grows out of the end of the lower jaw, and is a bony gristle, somewhat resembling a large hawk's beak ; it is very strong, and will grow to the length of about an inch and a half, or more. With this they go to work, and throw up the gravel and sand in heaps a foot or more high, like mole-hills in a field, leaving hollow places between, wherein the females cast their eggs ; and the males, performing their natural office, go to work again, and cover all substantially over, to prevent other fish from destroying them, and to nourish and bring them to perfection. This done, they immediately run down the rivers to the sea, which restores them

* This excrescence, or tusk, in the Salmon, is not a sign of his being sickly, nor a defence against fish that would devour the spawn (as has been asserted by many writers on the nature of this fish) ; but is given him by Nature purely for the purpose of making the beds for the females to spawn in ; for all fresh-water fish are fearful of approaching the Salmon on account of his size and his being a fish of prey, as before observed, with teeth and strength sufficient to prevent any thing of that kind, without such instrument.

to

to their strength, and adds greatly to their growth and goodness; and here the male gradually loses the *excrecence* before described. But if any are stopped by flood-gates, weirs, or otherwise confined to fresh water, they will become lean; waste away in their bodies; their heads will appear large, and of a different form from what they are when in health; and they will die by degrees, for want of the benefit of the salt water. The purging of the salt water, therefore, may as well be a reason why Salmon grow so fast, as the want thereof the cause why they pine away and die so soon when confined to fresh water; for Nature directs them to the salt water to purge and cleanse them, not only from their impurities after spawning, but from all others acquired by their manner of feeding all the summer in fresh water. It likewise hardens their fat and flesh; and the fresh water, adding to their flavour, makes them more wholesome.

I have often with delight seen these fish working their beds, observed them cast-

ing their spawn, and admired the curious method in which they cover the beds up again, particularly in the river Shannon in Ireland.

In this manner their spawn is left ; and therein it is nourished and brought to perfection without any other care. There are several kinds of fish that will destroy the spawn when the Salmons have left their stations, by rooting it up wherever they are able ; these are, particularly, the Eel, Roach, and Dace.

The Salmon has different names in different countries, according to its age ; those that are taken in the river *Ribble*, in Yorkshire, are in the first year called *Smelts*, in the second year *Sprods*, in the third *Morts*, in the fourth *Forktails*, in the fifth *Half-fish*, and in the sixth *Salmon*. The small Salmons, called *Morts* and *Peals* in most parts of England and Ireland, are named *Grils* in Scotland.

It is very remarkable, that such erroneous accounts should be given by many natural historians of the growth and weight of
of

of these fish. They in general state, that a *Salmon* attains his full growth at the weight of forty pounds; whereas, both in Great Britain and Ireland, I have seen them from sixty to near seventy pounds weight, and have heard of larger. I have taken some by angling with an artificial fly and other baits, weighing upwards of forty pounds.

All fish, so long as they remain in health and escape misfortunes from the bite of fish of prey, (as well as other injuries to which they are frequently liable,) add something to their size and weight continually, breeding and growing; for all fish will begin to spawn when very young, and before they are half grown: hence we see small *Salmons* with roe as well as large ones. Such is my humble opinion however; and after having made it my study for upwards of forty years, I have the confidence to believe, that my knowledge of the nature of fresh-water fish is equal with the land sportsman's knowledge of the nature of hares, pheasants,

fants, partridges, and other game; with which I am also not unacquainted.

There are in Ireland two beautiful falls of water (nearly perpendicular) which are called *Salmon-leaps*; one at *Ballough-Shannon*; the other, at *Leixlip*, about eight or nine miles from Dublin. The *Salmon*, when running from the sea, leap up these *cascades*; and it is hardly credible by those who have not witnessed it, that these fish should be able to dart themselves full twelve feet perpendicular out of the water; nay, allowing for the curvature, they must sometimes leap sixteen or eighteen feet. They do not, however, always succeed at the first leap; for sometimes when they have almost reached the summit, the falling water dashes them down again; at others, they fall head foremost or sidelong upon the rocks, where they remain stunned for a few moments, and then struggle into the water again. When they are so lucky as to reach the top, they swim out of sight in a moment. They do not appear to spring from the surface
of

of the water, nor can it be ascertained from what depth they take their leap. It seems, however, to be performed by a forcible spring with their tails bent to their mouths ; for their principal strength is in their tails. They have sometimes been shot,—at others caught with strong barbed hooks fixed to a pole, at others again, by a kind of basket fastened to a long pole, and instances have been known of women catching them in their aprons,—during their leap. Sometimes one may see forty or perhaps more of these leaps in an hour. There is a *cataraet* of this kind on the river *Tivy* in *Pembrokeshire*, and another on the river *Wear*, not far from *Durham*, which is accounted very high ; but that which I have spoken of in *Ireland* is much higher. I have often been surprised, while angling near mills, and other obstructions that sometimes prevent the *Salmon's* free course up the rivers, to see a *Salmon* leap with violence against a mill-wheel when going round, a rock, or a wall, and rebound with such force as to fall at my feet. Indeed, sometimes

sometimes they are cut asunder by mill-wheels at work.

It must be remarked, that *Salmon* is much more plentiful in the rivers of *Scotland* and *Ireland* than in those of *England*; and that it is very cautious of venturing too far into the salt water, through dread of being devoured by the *Porpus* or other fish of prey; they therefore keep about the bays near the entrance of the rivers into the sea; and upon their return from thence always enter the same rivers in which they had been spawned: which naturally accounts for some of them being better than others, according to the different quality and purity of the water in the rivers to which they resort.

The Salmon's haunts.

The *Salmon* delights to prey and sport in swift violent streams and large rivers; and generally prefers the rough and upper parts of gentle streams, and the tails of large ones, when on prey; especially in
such

such waters as have pebbly, gravelly, or sandy bottoms, and sometimes in weedy bottoms. When off their prey and sport, they swim in the deep and broad parts, and generally in the middle of the river near the ground.

Their Feeding-times and Baits.

The Salmon's best feeding-times are from six till nine in the morning, and from three in the afternoon till sun-set; generally in a clear water, when the wind blows hard against the stream. The best months to angle for them are March, April, May, and June; though they will take a fly very freely till the beginning of October, but they are then out of season and unclean. They are to be fished for with a large artificial fly (as hereafter described), small Gravling or Last-springs, Minnows, and lob-worms; but the fly is the most killing of them all.

How

How to angle for them, &c.

Your rod should be from sixteen to eighteen feet in length, or longer, according to the size of the river you fish in; strong and limber, with good wire rings from the top to within two feet of your hand, near to which your reel or winch must be fixed, with a good strong running-line without knots, and the reel must be large enough to contain as much line as will cross the river you fish in; for the Salmon is a strong fish, will run very swiftly when first hooked, and will afterwards leap and plunge for some time. When he gives in a little, take the advantage of winding up your line, and when he makes another motion to be off (which he will many times) give him line again, and so continue playing him till you have gained all your line back again, except what is sufficient to lead him to some shallow part, when, on his belly touching the bottom, he will turn on his side;
you

you may then lay down your rod, and take him out by the gills. They will sometimes be so jaded, that they will not stir afterwards. You may often take them in the still deep parts of rivers when the wind blows very strong.

When you go out to angle for Salmon, you should have a *gaff* (so called by Salmon-fishers), which is a good stick somewhat pliable, with a large barbed hook in one end; a string is made fast to one end also, and to slip off and on the other; so that you can carry it like a bow across your shoulders, and be out of the way of throwing the line; thus, when you have played a fish, and brought him in under a bank, &c. you may slip the string off, and, taking the gaff in your hand, put the hook into the nose or the gills and lift him out; for which purpose a landing-net is too small.

After you have fixed the reel to your rod, take the line (which is looped at the end), and run it through the rings till you bring it out at the top; then take
your

your foot-length or gut-length (which must be looped at each end, and the knots well whipt also,) and loop it to the reel-line. This foot-length, for *Salmon*, must be made of three strong silk-worm-guts twisted together as hairs are done; three lengths will be long enough, as you fish with only one fly. The link to which your fly is fixed is done in the same way, and looped to the other end of your foot-length; so that if the fish at any time refuse one fly, you may take it off with convenience, and try others, till you find which they are in the humour to take.

When you troul for them with *Gravelling* or *Minnow*, your foot-length or links must be about three yards, with a swivel or two, as well to help your bait to play and turn freely, as to prevent your line from twisting and breaking; with a large shot or two about a foot from the bait, to keep it under water when you play it; but you may either add to, or diminish the shot, according to the strength of the stream you fish in, and your own judgment;

ment; for this kind of angling is chiefly in the streams. You must have a stiffer top to your rod than for fly-fishing; your hook very large, and long in the shank; with a very small one fixed above, at nearly the distance of the length of the fish you bait with. The bait is to be drawn upon the hook like a worm, by putting it into the mouth and bending it round the bend of the hook till it comes out a little above the tail, so as to keep the tail bent a little; and then put the small hook (which must be made blunt at the point) through the lips of the fish, to prevent its slipping into the bend of the large hook. Some use a leaded, and others a snap hook; but I much prefer the method I have here described.

When you are thus prepared, let your line out about the length of your rod, throw your bait across the stream, and draw your line with a pretty brisk motion up it; which causes the bait to spin well, and provokes the large fish to take it. Some anglers strike the fish as they seize

114. ANGLING REDUCED TO

the bait ; but I generally let them take it down for a time, which I think is the surest method, though I can take them either way ; but I would advise those who use themselves to the former method to be careful, when a fish runs at the bait, not to snatch it away through surprise before he takes it, as is often done even by tolerable anglers. This way of angling is best when the water is clearing off after a fresh, or when on the rise, before it becomes too thick.

In lob-worm fishing for the Salmon, use the trouling tackle, by putting two of these worms well scoured on the hooks, the first of which must be drawn up quite above the top of the shank of the large hook, and the small one run through the head ; then take the other worm, and run that up the hook some way above the shank, and, drawing the other down, let them hang with their tails one above the other, keeping the point of the large hook from coming through the worm. This being done, lay your worms at the bottom
of

of a stream, and hold your rod still, keeping out of sight as much as possible ; if in a short time you have no bite, move your line gently up the stream, and your worms will play and shew themselves by means of the swivels, and thus entice the fish to take them. If you have no success this way after a few trials, you may almost depend upon it that there is no fish there, or else that he is not for the bait. This method is used when either the water is too thick for the fly, or when the day is bright, little or no wind stirring, and the water so clear that the fish can discover the deception of the artificial fly. I have often got up into a tree to look for them, and have sometimes discovered one or more at the bottom, by the side or at the tail of a stream, and, descending, have crept carefully out of sight, when, gently laying the worms at the bottom, about a yard from his head, I have soon felt his nibbling, and having hooked and taken him, have then gone and looked out for more. You can take them by no other

method of angling when the weather and water are in such a state, than by this way, and minnow fishing.

SALMON-FRY.

Called in some countries, *Salmon-Smelts*, *Samlets*, *Salmon-Pinks*, &c. These small Salmon are found in all rivers that Salmon frequent, and are the produce of the spawn left by them. They begin to appear in February, and in March and April are very numerous; but if a fresh happens to rise in the rivers about April, they begin to travel, and will go lower down from where they were spawned every fresh, till they find the water saltish; and by the middle of the summer they will be grown as large as herrings, and some larger. As the cold weather comes on, they will venture to the mouths of the rivers, or a little farther, but are fearful of going too far into the salt water on their first visit. The salt water adds greatly to their growth; and in the spring and summer following

following they return, and run up the rivers in great quantities, but go down to the sea again before the winter (*i. e.* those that escape being taken). Upon their second return up the rivers, they will be grown amazingly, and are then called (according to the countries where they are taken) *Morts*, *Peals*, or *Grils*, as before observed ; though some will call them *Salmon-Trouts*, for want of knowing better. In the beginning of the autumn following they will spawn for the first time. The latter end of the next February after they are spawned, they will begin to take a small worm, when not much longer than one's finger ; and in March and April, when the largest will be six or seven inches long, they are very eager in taking a small red or black fly, if the water be clear ; if thick, a small worm ; and afford great diversion to a young angler ; but it is really shameful to take them at that age, though they are very delicate eating.

They are to be angled for in and by the sides of streams whose bottoms are gravelly, sandy, or stony.

THE SALMON-TROUT.

The real *Salmon-Trout* is a very handsome fish, being more richly adorned than the Salmon. It is longer, thicker, and rounder in proportion than a Salmon; is of a reddish cast when in season; has fine small scales, beautifully intermixed on both sides of the lateral lines with rich red and black spots, from head to tail; and the head, which is proportionally handsome with the body, is spotted over, as are likewise the covers of the gills; the fins are strongly formed, and the tail is shorter and stronger than the Salmon's, but not so much forked. The flesh is exceedingly rich and good, and in some countries esteemed much better than that of any fish of the Salmon kind. The size is, generally, from two or three pounds to about five or six in weight; but some are larger.

Their

Their haunts, season, and spawning-time.

• Their haunts are partly the same as those of the Salmon and large common Trout, and they are often taken when angling for either. They frequent the rivers pretty early in the spring; are in high season from the middle of April till towards the latter end of July; and spawn chiefly in September; though in some countries they will spawn sooner, and in others later.

How to angle for them, their baits, and biting-times.

Your rod should be a small-sized Salmon-rod, or a strong Trout one, not less than fourteen feet long; your reel-line strong; the foot-length about three yards of fine twisted silk-worm-gut, or some of the strongest fingle, with the knots well whipt; the hook No. 3 or 4; the baits, when the water is clear enough, should be large gaudy flies; but, when it is much

coloured, well-scoured worms ; with which angle in the streams and near the sides of them, having a running line, with a shot or two a foot or more from the hook.

This is a strong fish in its element ; and therefore when you hook one, give line enough, and otherwise manage him properly, and he will give you good play.

THE BULL-TROUT OR SCURF, THE BULGER, AND WHITE-TROUT, &c.

These differ from the Salmon, as well as the Salmon-Trout ; all of which are by some persons taken for young Salmon ; but this is a gross error ; for they are quite a different species ; their tails are not so forked at the end ; some are much browner, some blacker, and others much brighter ; and the Bull-Trout has a shorter and thicker head, as well as body, than any other. Some of the former-named fish will weigh from a pound to three or four ; and they are found in all rivers that have a communication with the salt-water,

water, as well as in others that join those, where there are no obstructions to their running up.

They begin to run up the rivers in May, or at the beginning of June, and are most plentiful in September and October; but in these months they are not so good as in the former ones, it being the season when the greatest part of them spawn. The flesh is at no time so good as that of a Salmon, being something drier.

The *White-Trout*, as it is generally called in England and Ireland, is termed *Whitling* in Scotland, and *Sewen* or *Souen* in Wales. They are most excellent fish; particularly those taken in the *Toway* in *South Wales*, as remarked in treating of that river. They run about the size of large Mackerel, are quite handsome and very bright, and are to be taken with the black and grouse hackles hereafter described in the list of flies.

Their haunts are in smart, rough, stony streams, and at the sides and tails of them, where it is gravelly; and sometimes in smooth

smooth gliding currents of the same nature. They are strong in the water, and afford great sport when hooked ; for some of them will spring with the line a yard or two out of the water, and that several times before you can properly land them.

The former have the same haunts as the Salmon-Trout, and are sometimes found in gentle purling shallow streams, and those that run between and over rocks or stones, and about weirs that are made across rivers.

Your tackle and baits are the same as for the Salmon-Trout.

THE GRAVING, LAST-SPRING, SHEDDER,
GRAVEL-LAST-SPRING, OR SAMPSON ;

(So called in different countries) is found in all rivers which the Salmon and the Trout just described frequent. They are exceedingly plentiful in many rivers of England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the beginning of April to the latter end of November ; and are much like the Salmon.

Salmon-Fry, only some of them are of a darker colour, and have blackish marks down the middle of each side; but there are various sorts and sizes of them to be found towards the latter end of the year, differently marked.

Some are of opinion, that they are the spawn of the sick Salmon which cannot get out from the fresh waters to the sea, and that being thus the offspring of a weak seed is the reason of their diminutive size and inability to breed again; but this is obviously wrong, because the Salmon never spawns but when in perfect health. Another opinion is, that they are a species of themselves, because a little milky matter, like male spawn, is found in some of them in the month of September, but never any female spawn; for which reason, I take this to be an error also.

Now, in my opinion, they are really and absolutely the spawn of the *Salmon-Trout*, *Bull-Trout* or *Scurf*, *Bulger*, *White-Trout* or *Sewen*, &c.; and that they are the productions of all these kinds of fish,

fish, may be inferred, as we find them differ in size and make. The kind of milky matter spoken of, may be a forwardness of nature in some of the males, before the females are capable of producing any spawn. But even supposing that they do actually breed at this age, it would not affect my argument ; for fish begin to breed when very small ; the Roach and Dace, for instance, will be full roed when no longer than one's finger, and so go on breeding and growing some little, as long as they exist. But I take these *Gravlings*, &c. to be a year old at the time spoken of, the spawn of the last season ; and that they go gradually down the rivers before the next winter, according to their strength, till they find the water a little brackish, which adds much to their growth, and enables them to return the next summer to the rivers in various sizes, according to their kind, as we may observe when any quantity are taken ; and this season I find to be their first time of spawning, being then full of roe of both kinds ;

kinds; and so in time they come to be named as above mentioned; for they do not grow so fast in proportion as the Salmon. If this be not the case, what becomes of the spawn of these Trouts, which always breed in rivers like the Salmon? Does it produce nothing? I answer, that it produces these very fish, and no other; and that on their reaching the brackish water, the marks down each side gradually disappear, and they become adorned, some with beautiful red spots, some with brown, black, and others with whitish spots, according to their kind. Some will be darker than the Salmon, and some as bright as silver.

The baits and method of angling for the Graveling are the same as for the Salmon-Fry.

THE MULLET

Is a fish of passage, visiting our rivers from the salt water. It is something like a *Dace* in shape, but much thicker; has
 7 a sharp

a sharp nose ; the mouth is without teeth, but the tongue is a little rough, and there are two rough bones on each side the palate, and one at the corner of the mouth, beset with prickles ; the head is flattish, with scales on the covers of the gills and head as far as the nostrils, and large ones on the body ; the back is of a blueish brown, having a fin radiated with five long spines, and the belly white ; the lateral lines are variegated alternately with black and white. The largest of them are about half a yard long, and in great esteem. In the summer time they run up with every tide, and return back when the water ebbs, never stopping in the rivers ; and they are in season from May to September. Angle for them as the tide comes in, but before it gets too thick, with an artificial fly, the same as for *Trout*, and at all times, if the water be in any degree clear enough ; when otherwise, bait with a small red worm, or with gentles. Have strong tackle, and fish within two feet of the bottom. The

Mullet

Mullet is a strong fish in his element ; when you hook him, therefore, give him proper play.

THE SMELT

Derives its name, according to some, from having a smell like a violet, or, as others say, like a cucumber ; but I think it between both, and partaking partly of that of new hay. The length of a large one is from eight to ten inches, and two or three inches broad when big with roe. The largest I ever saw were some that I took out of the rivers in Scotland, particularly the *Forth*, near Stirling. The lower jaw is a little more prominent than the upper, and both are furnished with small teeth, beside some on the tongue. The back part of the head is transparent. The back is of a dusky colour ; but the belly and sides shine like silver ; and, upon close examination, there may be seen small black spots on the head and back. The flesh is soft, tender, and of a delicate taste,
for

for which it is much esteemed. Smelts visit the rivers with the tide; and in the spring, and beginning of summer, will run much farther up than in the decline of the year. They are also to be found in the inlets of the sea, and in the docks that are opened for the reception of ships. Angle for them about mid-water with fine tackle, a line that is called a paternoster, having five or six small hooks, about five or six inches above each other, baited with different sorts of baits. The best of all are very small fresh *shrimps*, (not boiled,) or part of a boiled one with the head and husk taken away; next to these are gentles; red paste; paste made up of boiled *shrimps*, fine white bread, and a little honey; cads, and blood-worms; and they will sometimes take a bit of one of their own species. Throw in now and then some crumbs of bread steeped in water, to keep them together. It is best angling when the tide runs up.

THE BARBEL.

Is said to be so called on account of its having a beard, or barb, under the chops ; it is a large leather-mouthed fish, of a fine cast and handsome shape, with small scales placed in a most exact manner ; but it is very coarse and bad eating, and the roe is said to act as a violent *cathartic* and *emetic*, though I never made the experiment. In short, they are not worth noticing, except for the sport they afford to the angler, which is very great.

They begin to run up the rivers in March ; and in April, when they begin to spawn, keep together in companies, making holes in the gravel wherein they cast their spawn. If there be any difference in the taste of their flesh, they are most in season the latter end of summer. They frequent weedy, gravelly, rising grounds, and deep places ; and in the summer the strongest currents of water, under bridges, near weirs, among piles
K
hollow

hollow places, and under mossy weeds, &c. &c. Before the weather gets too cold, they retire down the rivers to the deep brackish water, where they continue till the spring, when they run up again; though some will have it, that they continue up the rivers, and hide themselves all the winter in the weeds and mud in deep water; but this is a wrong notion; for I never heard of fishermen taking them with nets at that season of the year, which they certainly would do, as well as other fish, if they were then in the water; nor did I ever know a *Barbel* to be found in any river or brook that had not a communication with the sea.

Angle for them with strong tackle, with a *wheel* or *winch* as before described; your bottom link should be three lengths of gut twisted together, the hook from No. 4 to No. 5 or 6; a proper number of shot about half a foot from it, and a cork or swan-quill float to carry the bait about half an inch from the ground, or nearer. Do not bait the place with *greaves*,
as

as some do, nor with any other bait but what is inferior to that you fish with; as malt grains, bran, blood, parts of lob-worms, and clay, all worked up together, and two or three small balls of it thrown into your hole. This repeat now and then, but do not bait it too much (though some foolishly say you cannot); for if you do, they will glut themselves too much to be eager for your hook-baits; the best of which are, Salmon's roe boiled a little; *greaves* (which are the remains of tallow-chandlers' fat, after having been melted and well pressed; and to prepare them for use, break some into a vessel of cold water, and put them over a gentle fire, till they are near boiling, which will turn them almost white, and make them fine and soft; then fish with the best and whitest part of it), gentles, lob-worms, and cheese. Be careful that your baits be well scoured, sweet, and clean, or you will spoil your sport. This method of angling for them with a float is chiefly proper in deep gently-running water; but

when you fish in streams, have a small bullet with a hole through it on your line, and a shot about a foot from the hook to prevent its flipping down to the hook; by these means the bullet will lie on the ground, and the stream will cause your bait to play, and show itself. You should have the bottom link of fine gimp for this method. When you have a bite, you may perceive the line or top of the rod to move, and when you have the rod in your hand, you can feel him; give proper time, and then strike; if you hook him, be sure to give him play, and manage him properly, or he will break both rod and line; for he will, upon being hooked, run with his head violently towards any covert hole or bank, and will often strike with his tail at the line to break it. Their principal biting months are from the beginning of May till the latter end of August, from about sun-rise to ten o'clock in the morning, and from four in the afternoon to sun-set.

THE FLOUNDER

Is a fish that is found in all rivers which have communication with the sea, and is too well known to require description, except as differing from the small *Plaice*, which some people are at a loss to distinguish from the *Flounder*; the latter, however, is not so broad or flat, but is thicker and more oval; the fins reddish; the belly of a more clear white; the flesh considerably more firm and good; and the large ones are adorned with small red spots. In coming from the salt water, they run a considerable way up the rivers; numbers of them that are not taken, lose themselves, and, not finding their way back again, continue and breed in the rivers; and these grow to be the largest. They will likewise live and breed in ponds, if taken and put in without hurt. Angle for them with a strong line, three, four; or five hairs at bottom, or a very strong gut, and not with a single-hair line, as some advise, who know little, if any thing;

of the method of angling for these fish; for in some rivers they are very large, weighing a pound or more, and when hooked struggle much and afford great sport. In angling for these you may sometimes take *Trout*, *Chub*, *Barbel*, *Eel*, and other fish. The only baits that I would recommend are, *Brandling-worms* well scoured, and those that are taken from *ratten tan*. Lie on the ground when you angle in the streams with a bullet, as before mentioned for *Barbel*; and when in deep still water, with a shot or two on the line. You may use two or three rods when you fish purposely for them, laying them in such order as will enable you easily to discern when they bite, by the motion of the line or top of the rod. The best places to angle for them in, are, by the sides and at the tails of deep streams, where the bottom consists of gravel, fine sand, or loam, or in deep still places of the same quality near the banks; and by throwing in a ground-bait of clay and broken worms, and observing the directions above laid down, you

you may take in some rivers a dozen or more at a standing, when the water is thickened by fresh or tide; for they will bite all day, in the course of which you may often take a considerable quantity, though it has been ignorantly asserted by some, that they are seldom or ever taken with a rod and line.

THE EEL,

Though a fish of passage, is to be found in almost all waters that have any communication with the sea.— There are several sorts of them. The *Silver Eel* has a dark brown back, and white belly; with a head small and sharpish. The *Green Eel* has a broad flat head, and is much flatter made towards the tail than the other, having the back of a dark green colour, and the belly of a whitish green. The *Black Eel* has a larger head than the two former, a black back, and yellow belly; and the flesh is reckoned unwholesome, particularly of those taken out of mud in standing waters.

The Eels begin to run up the rivers in April, if the weather be warm ; and such of them as can will return to the salt water soon in the autumn following, where they bring forth their young, which are those small *Eels*, or *Elvers*, that run up the rivers near the surface of the water in such surprising quantities when the weather becomes warm.

That Eels are of the *viviparous* kind is certain ; for I do not believe that any one will venture to say, that he ever found any thing like roe in them ; but I can assert, with truth, that for the purpose of satisfying myself on this head, I have cut open numbers of *Eels*, and have found within many of them a small soft whitish substance knotted together very curiously ; which, upon close examination, when separated I found to be perfect young *Eels* capable of moving, though some of them were no thicker than a fine thread, and upon their being put into water I have seen them swim about. This discovery always happened in the latter end of summer, or
beginning

beginning of autumn; which convinces me, that they go down to the sea for the purpose above stated; and that those which stay behind, (for there are some to be found in the rivers at almost all times,) produce their young the same way; as do also those which by summer floods have been carried out of the rivers into ponds, rivulets, ditches, (where there is any spring,) and other waters, wherever they are, except those that are barren. These, when the winter comes on, retire into deep water, under hollow banks, and other places where there is a sufficient quantity of mud for them to lurk in, and keep themselves warm, till the spring and mild weather invites them abroad again. Natural historians tell us, that all fishes that have no scales bring forth their young alive; and those that have, cast their spawn; but this is a mistake; witness the little *Minnow*, *Loach*, and *others*, which have no scales, yet spawn in the same manner as those that have; which makes me conclude, that these authors mean

mean many sea-fish, but at the same time have particularly mistaken the nature of the *Eel*! I cannot help commenting a little farther on this subject. There are not wanting persons who assert, that *Eels* are bred from some corrupted matter, even from that of their own species, by glutinous drops of dew falling on banks near waters, which are by the heat of the sun turned into *Eels*!! And, wonderful to relate, an author on this head, intending to make others as wise as *himself*, and *all the world conjurers*, gives instructions for producing them by art, viz. “Cut up two turfs covered with May-dew, and lay one on the other, the grassy side inwards, and thus expose them to the heat of the sun: in a few hours there will spring from them an infinite quantity of *Eels*!!!” Many persons will also tell you, that where horses run near water, and cast their hairs therein, and on the sides of the banks, they will certainly produce *Eels*!!!

The *Eel's haunts* are chiefly among weeds, under stumps of trees, roots, and
4 stones,

stones, in holes in the banks and bottom, and about bridges, weirs, mills, deep streams, and muddy places; where they mostly keep in the day-time, with only their heads out watching for prey, except when the water is rendered thick by rains or otherwise; for then they come out boldly, and will bite eagerly. They are best in season in May, June, and July. Angle for them on the ground, with two, three, or more rods (if you find you can attend them), using the same ground-bait as for the *Barbel*; but letting your hook-baits be *well-scoured lob-worms, small Minnows, Loaches, Bull-heads, and wasp-maggots*, which are the best baits for them, and with which you may often have good sport when the water is high and thick, as above observed; but they take best in the night, when the weather is warm and the night dark; then, if you are disposed for the sport, fish upon the shallows where there is a current, or by the side or tail of a stream with a sandy gravelly bottom, holding the rod in your hand, and letting
the

the bait be on the ground, which bait may either of the above mentioned, except the young wasp. When they bite, you will feel them tug sharply; but give a little time, and you cannot fail of having excellent sport from the time the night comes on till the day breaks, which instantly stops it, for they directly flee to their hiding-places. You may also take them by night-lines, with the same baits. There is a method of taking them at any time of day when the water is clear and low; this is called *sniggling*, and is performed by having a small stick, no thicker than a strongish top-rod, with a kind of elbow at one end, and straight at the other, about a yard long, with a small cleft in each end, and a large strong needle well whipt to a line of small good whip-cord, or catgut, from the eye down to the middle; when you bait, run the head of the needle quite up into the head of a lob-worm, letting the point come out about the middle; then put the point of the needle into the cleft at either end of

the stick, according to convenience, and taking both stick and line together in one hand, with some of the line wrapped round the hand, put the bait gently into holes, under hollow walls, stones, and other places where you think they hide themselves; if there be any Eel there, he will take it, and draw the worm and the needle out of the cleft; now take away the stick gently (having slackened the line) and give time, that he may swallow the bait; then give a gentle snatch, and the needle will stick across his throat; let him tire himself with tugging, before you attempt to pull him out; for he lies infolded in his den, and will fasten his tail round any thing that he can for his defence; so that violence will sometimes pull away his head, particularly if he be large; get him out therefore by gentle means. The largest Eels are generally taken about the hollow stone-work of old bridges, (the angler being in a boat,) and afford great diversion.

Another

Another method of taking them is, by what is called *bobbing*; this is done by taking a quantity of chicken's guts, or scoured lob-worms; having a long needle, with two or three lengths of worsted slightly twisted together, put the needle lengthways through them, and draw them down on the worsted till you have a yard or two thus prepared; then tie them up in links, fasten them to about two yards of good packthread, and make a knot on it about eight inches from the worms; and, slipping a piece of lead with a hole in it down the line to the knot, from about a quarter to three quarters of a pound weight, according to the current you fish in, fasten the line to a manageable pole, and let the lead lie on the bottom in thick muddy water, where the tide comes up strong; or near the mouth of some river. When they come to nibble at your bait, you can feel them; but give them some little time before you pull up, which must be gently, till they get near the surface of the water, then

then hoist them out quickly; the worsted sticking in their teeth prevents them from getting loose till you slacken the line by throwing them on the ground, or into a boat (which is preferable to being on shore); and as soon as they are disentangled, throw in again, and so continue putting in and taking up, and you will frequently get great quantities, especially of *Grigs*. *Eels* are also to be snared by the same method as that hereafter described for snaring *Pike*.

All those of which I have hitherto been treating are fishes of passage.

The following are fishes that do not visit the salt-water :

THE TROUT

Is more generally esteemed than any other fresh-water fish. The shape of *Trouts* in general is rather long than broad, like the *Salmon*; but in several rivers of Scotland and Ireland they grow much thicker than in our rivers in England,

land, though not near so long in proportion to their thickness; so that a *Trout* of this kind, that is from eighteen to about twenty-two inches in length, will often weigh from three to four or five pounds.

The *Trout* is a fish of prey, has a short roundish head, blunt nose, wide mouth filled with teeth, not only in the jaws, but on the palate and tongue also. It has a broad tail, small scales, and is sprinkled all over the body and covers of the gills, when in season, with small beautiful red and black spots.

There are several sorts of *Trouts*, which differ in their size, shape, and colour; but the best are either red or yellow; the females have a smaller head and deeper body than the males, and are of a superior flavour. There is also a sort of small *Trout* in many of the lesser rivers, that never grow large, but are very great breeders.



Their

Their spawning-time, with observations.

Trouts begin to spawn in October in some rivers, and in others in November, which I take to be the chief month. Towards the latter end of September they leave the deep water to which they had retired during the latter part of the hot season, and make their way up the rivers, seeking out proper places for the purpose of spawning. They always fix upon some gravelly bottom, or where gravel and sand are mixed among stones towards the tail and sides of a stream, and in lakes, &c. whose bottoms are gravel among weeds, where they make themselves beds, and therein deposit their spawn; at which time they become black about the head and body, and are disagreeably soft and unwholesome. In fact, they are never good when big with roe, which is contrary to the nature of most other fish. After they have spawned, they become lean and feeble; their bodies seem wasted; and those beautiful spots which before adorned them are not perceptible; their heads

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their heads appear swelled, and their eyes dull. In this state they retire to the deep still parts of the water, and continue there sick, as is supposed, all the winter, breeding a kind of worm which keeps them poor, till the season comes on to refresh and restore them to their former vigour. There are to be found in all Trout rivers some female Trouts that are barren, and these continue good all the winter.

Their haunts.

In February, or as soon as the weather becomes a little warm and open, the Trouts begin to leave their winter quarters in the deeps, and approach the shallows and tails of streams, where they scour, cleanse, and restore themselves to health, which prepares them for their summer's diversion. As they acquire strength, they advance still higher up the rivers, till they fix upon their summer's habitation; for which they generally choose rocky, stony, and gravelly bottoms; whirlpools, and holes into which swift streams, ~~falls,~~ and shallows,

shallows fall; under hollow banks, roots of trees, boughs and bushes, and in places that are shaded; behind great stones and banks, that stand above or jet out into the water, or where there is an eddy or whirling back of a stream; and in small rivers they frequently lie under sedges and weeds, especially in the beginning of the year, before they recover their perfect strength; but when they are in their prime, they frequent the swiftest streams, feeding in the sides and deepest parts of them, and are often found at the upper end of mill-pools, at locks, flood-gates, and weirs. They also take their stations under bridges, or between two streams that run from under the arches of bridges, and in the returns of streams, where the water seems to boil and twirl about in deep places; but at the decline of summer they lie at the tails of streams, and in the deep water.

The *angler*, by being thus directed to their most frequented haunts, may pursue his sport with much success, while those

who are unacquainted with these circumstances must ever fail in their attempts.

*Their seasons; how to angle for them;
their baits, and biting-times.*

Trouts may be said to be in season from the middle of February to Michaelmas, though some are tolerably good even to the middle of October; and I am of opinion, that they are fattest and best from about the middle of August to the middle of September, because at that season they feed mostly upon young fry, from the spawn of many different sorts of fish, which makes them firm and fine flavoured. Some, however, contend, that their prime season is May, which I cannot be brought to agree with, because in that month and June they glut themselves with such quantities of flies that frequent the water, as cause them to be more thin and flabby than they are either at the latter end of April or at the time above mentioned.

Your

Your rod for Trout-fishing should be about fourteen feet in length ; the bottom part made of well-seasoned ash or hazle, large enough towards the but-end for the winch or reel to fasten on properly ; the middle part, seasoned yew or hickary ; the top of the same, well spliced, with about half a foot of good round whalebone to fit nicely, properly tapered to the end, and ringed neatly, as before observed of the Salmon-rod ; and when put together it must be very regularly taper from bottom to top, with a good spring, and pliable almost to the hand, for fly-fishing ; but you should have another top, much stiffer, to put on for minnow and worm-fishing. The but-end of your rod should be bored so as to be adapted to hold either top, (according as you change them,) with a screw or cap at the end to keep it from dropping out. For fly-fishing only, your rod should be but of two parts, without ferrils, and the lower part longer than the upper part, with the small end of the former and the large end of the

latter cut nicely to fit, as for splicing, but pretty long; it may be tied together by the water-side, with a proper-sized twisted and waxed hempen thread, such as shoe-makers use; and when you have left off fishing you should untie the rod, and wrap the string round both parts together, for the more conveniently carrying it home. This sort of rod is by far the best, both for throwing out the line with more ease and exactness, and for easing it in playing the fish when hooked; and it will have a better spring, if properly made, than the other sort of rods.

In February, if the weather be open and mild, Trouts will take a well-scoured red or dunghill worm, a longish white one found in the soil of turnip-fields, lob-worms, &c.; and if the water be clear, and the day fine, you may have sport with the fly; but the best months for them are, March, April, and May. In March and April angle for them with the worm in the forenoon, and with a fly or minnow the rest of the day, according to

the state of the water; in the swiftest streams and strongest parts of the river, provided the day be warm and bright, and in the deeps morning and evening, early and late; but if the water be much coloured, or very thick, angle in the shallows, where it is gravelly, near to the sides and tails of streams, with a worm only, to run on the bottom with one large shot a foot at least from the bait. If there be a small fresh in the water, or it is clearing off, being of a dark or brownish colour, use the worm first, (which should be a well-scoured brandling, with a fine hook, a shortish line without a shot, cast in as a fly at the head of the streams, and moved gently towards you, still letting it go down with the current, so as to keep it a little under water); then the minnow; and, as the water gets clearer, the artificial flies, of which there is a most particular account given in the Third Part of this Book. When the water is clear and low in warm weather, you may use the beetle, wood-fly, blue-bottle, cadbate,

palmer, cabbage-grub, coddung-bob, &c. &c. either at top, or within the water. Other large fish, as well as Trouts, will take all these baits freely, that is, sometimes one sort and sometimes another, just as they are in the humour, and the weather and water suit.

There is another excellent method of catching Trouts and several other sorts of fish; which is, by taking a fine bittern's feather, and lapping it round the hook like a hackle, near the top of the shank, and putting a palmer-worm, (of that sort which you judge best,) or a caddate in its season, on the bend of the hook; with which fish with a short line, over banks, bushes, and such places as are proper for the sport. In some countries this is called *bobbing*.

You may also, in warm weather, when the water is in order, use the worm, minnow, or caddate in the forenoon; and flies, either artificial or natural, all the rest of the day; not forgetting to use the evening flies, beginning towards sun-set; and for night-fishing, use the artificial moth-

moth-flies, the minnow, or a small fry.

N. B. Your tackle for minnow-fishing for Trouts should be of the same sort as that before mentioned for Salmon, with this difference only, that it must be much finer, with a good stout single silk-worm-gut at bottom, and the hook either No. 2, 3, or 4, according as the fish run for size where you angle.

THE GRAYLING

(Termed in Yorkshire, and some other places, *Umber*) has a longish and more flat body than that of a *Trout*. In length it seldom exceeds eighteen or twenty inches; its back is of a dusky green inclining to blue; and the sides are gray, (from which it has its name of *Grayling*.) though they seem to glitter with spangles of gold, and are marked with black spots irregularly placed; the lateral line, common to all fish, is nearer the back than the belly; the top of the back fin is reddish,

reddish, but the lower part is of a blueish purple (as are the fins of the belly) spotted with black ; it has a small head, with protuberant eyes, whose irides are of a silver colour, speckled with dusky yellow ; the mouth is of a middle size, with the upper jaw longer than the lower ; it cannot be said to have teeth, but the lips are rough like a fine file ; and when in its prime season, the head and covers of the gills are blackish ; it is hog-backed ; and when it swims at the bottom of the water, its nose and belly touch the ground together, which makes me think that Graylings feed mostly at the bottom.

The flesh is in great esteem ; and, in my opinion, much better than that of the *Trout*.

Their season, spawning-time, and haunts.

Graylings are good and palatable all the year ; but their chief season is from the beginning of September to January. They spawn in April and the beginning of

of May, at which time they lie near the sides and at the tails of sharp streams, and are very apt to rise at the artificial fly. Their haunts, in general, are nearly the same as those of the Trout. They lurk close all the winter, and in April begin to be very active; for they are brisk sprightly fishes in their element, and swim very swiftly.

How to angle for them; their baits, and biting-times.

When the water is clear enough, angle for them with *flies*, in the season; when otherwise, with the *cadbate*, *gentle or maggot*, or a *well-scoured worm*, &c.; for they are taken with the same baits, and after the same manner, as the Trout, except by trouting with the minnow, &c. which they never take. They will feed on, and delight themselves with, all other little insects, as well as the cadbate; and gather husks, which are composed of fine gravel and sand, to preserve them from the coldness of the water. I have often
seen

seen numbers of them working up the gravel, and catching at every thing of this kind.

When you fish at the bottom, let the bait or shot drag upon the ground, for they will rather take it there than ascend ; therefore when you angle particularly for them this way, use a running-line, though some prefer a cork float. Gentles, in my opinion, are the best bait for bottom-fishing.

Graylings are very sportive at the fly during the spring and summer ; being much more simple, and therefore bolder than the Trout, they will rise two or three times at your fly, if you miss them ; but are dead-hearted and cowardly soon after they are hooked. The mouth is so very tender on each side, that they will often break their hold, so that you must use them gently when struck, and take care to have a fine hook, about No. 5 or 6.

They will take all day in coolish cloudy days ; but the best time is from about
eight

eight in the morning to twelve, and from four in the afternoon to a little after sunset, in spring and summer; and from September to January in the middle of the day. In angling for Graylings, you will generally take *Trouts* also; for when they are in the same water, they generally keep company together, as do *Roach* and *Dace*.

THE PIKE, LUCE, OR JACK,

Has a long and roundish body, covered with small scales of a whitish colour, and sprinkled on each side with yellowish spots (the young ones partake more of a greenish tint); the upper and lower jaws are both full of teeth, beside which it has three rows of teeth upon the tongue. The Pike is the tyrant of fresh-water fish, and is accounted a longer liver than any other, except the Carp. The chief articles of his sustenance are frogs and fish, even those of his own species. The very large ones are so voracious, that they have

have been known to snap at the limbs of a boy when swimming, and at a dog or other animal; they will also draw down young geese, ducks, and other water-fowl under water, and devour them. In short, this fish may be called the fresh-water shark. It is supposed that no other fish will keep company with the Pike, as he is always observed to swim alone, and is the most bold and daring of all fresh-water fish, knowing no other enjoyments, as may be conjectured, than prey and rest.

Pikes grow to a very large size. I have seen them in England more than thirty pounds weight; and have been informed, that there was one taken out of the river *Shannon* in *Ireland* that weighed between sixty and seventy pounds; but I never caught one that was more than eighteen pounds.

Their spawning-time, and season.

They begin spawning the latter end of February, and continue till near the
middle

middle of March, at which time they go out of the rivers into some creek or ditch where there may be a sufficient supply of water; in ponds, they seek the neck or shallow parts of the water, among weeds; and while the spawner is casting her eggs, the miltier hovers over her, but does not touch her. The best of these fish are those that breed in rivers, and the females are preferable to the males. They are in season from the beginning of May till near their spawning-time.

How to angle for them, &c.

Your rod must be strong, such as you troul with for Salmon; with a reel or winch placed on the but-end of it, sufficient to hold about thirty yards of strong line; at the end of which let there be a swivel, to fasten on your armed wire or gimp.

There are many ways of taking the Pike. The first that I shall describe, I call *dipping*, and it is performed as follows: Let your hook be a large proper-sized

sized gorge-hook, very slightly leaded on the shank ; bait it, by putting the wire or gimp in at the mouth of a smallish fish, such as a *Salmon-Fry*, *Gravling*, *Roach*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, &c. and, bringing it out as near the tail as possible, (for which purpose, when you use gimp, you should have a brass needle about seven or eight inches long, put the loop of the gimp on the small curve or eye of the needle, thrust it into the mouth of the fish, and bring it out as above observed) ; draw it on for the hook to be out, close in one corner of its mouth, which must then be sewed up, and the tail tied up to the wire or gimp very neatly with a bit of white thread, which is not so apt to untie as silk ; cut away the back fin, and then loop on to your swivel. When you begin to angle, let out your line to a length convenient, and fish where the water is not very deep, but overspread with docks and weeds except in some parts where you have room to get in your bait. The fish, hanging with his head downwards, will, when played with

with a gentle motion, shoot and play about among the weeds very naturally ; and the Pike will be eager in taking it this way, even from the surface of the water. When a Pike takes your bait, slacken your line, and let him take it down, and run with it if he has room ; in a short time afterwards, you may perceive the line to shake, which is a good hint to strike ; or else give him time to gorge it, according as your judgment may direct. When you hook one, manage him gently, winding up your line by degrees. When it is proper to land him, bring him quietly through the weeds, with his nose above them ; and if you have not a landing net, be careful how you take him out of the water, for his bite is very sharp. The best way is to take him with your thumb and finger in his eyes.

N. B. Always let your baits be fresh.

Another way,

Which is very pleasant, is called *trolling* for Pike, but *trouling* for Salmon and Trout, because the motion is much quicker.

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Your

Your rod and line must be the same as before ; the hook either double or single ; the double hook is made of two large ones, with long shanks, tied together nearly back to back, then whipt to a piece of proper brass wire about four inches long ; and to the wire, have half a yard of gimp, with a small loop at top ; the hook must be leaded two inches up the wire, the piece of lead running small to the upper end, and a quarter of an inch square at the lower end. The single hook is completed the same way, observing to choose one with a long shank. They are both baited the same way, as before directed, only cutting away one of the fins at the gills of your bait, and another at the vent on the contrary side, and keeping the points of the double hook towards its eyes, when it is drawn close to his mouth. Angle for them this way in deep strong water, near to weeds, bullrushes, water-docks, hollow banks, stumps of trees, &c. Cast your bait across the water, and up and down in such places as you think proper ; and keep it in constant motion, by sometimes letting it sink
a con-

a considerable depth, and at other times raising it gradually. You need not make more than two or three trials in a place; for if a Pike be there, he will seize the bait within that time, if he intends taking it at all. When he takes the bait, give him line, and he will run to his hold to swallow it; in a short time afterwards, you may see the line shake (as before observed); if that be not the case, let him be about five minutes from the time that he first made off; then strike, and manage him with discretion: he is your own. But, if after he has run off with the bait, he makes scarcely any stay with it at his hold, but goes off with it again, you should not strike him till he has rested a second time allowing him still about five minutes; but if he should run off a third time before the five minutes are expired, draw a tight line, and strike him instantly. If you hook him, and he happens to be a large fish, give him line enough, which will exhaust his strength; in time wind up your line by degrees, but do not pull him roughly; for if you do he will plunge in such a manner,

that though he may not be able to break your tackle, yet he may tear away his hold. When you have brought him within fight, if he begins again to struggle much, give him line again, and so on till you master and take him. Pike are to be enticed by a large bait, but a small one is much more certain. You should take care that your bait be clear from weeds when you recast it into the water, which must be done gently, or you will frighten the fish, instead of encouraging him to take.

There is another way of trolling, and this is by hand. The hook being baited and fixed to the end of a line, and the other end tied round the waist of the person using it, or through the button-holes of his coat, the line must be gradually taken up in length, in the left hand, except about a yard, or less, which is held in the left hand near the bait; now, with a spring jerk, away flies the bait to the extent of the line, in general; then, letting it sink a little, draw in the line with such a motion, as to keep the bait in good play; by which method many Pikes are taken.

Another

Another way,

Called taking them at snap. For this purpose, you must be provided with a double spring hook, being much preferable to all others, as it never fails. When you bait for the snap, you must make a hole in the side of the fish-bait, as near the middle as you can, with the point of a probe or your hook ; put in your armed wire, or gimp, draw it out at the fish's mouth, and sew it up. When you fish thus for the Pike, before you strike, let him run a little, and then strike him the contrary way from that which he runs. The snap is best used in March, the Pike being then very shy ; and though they will seize the bait with seeming eagerness, yet they will let it go again immediately ; to be even with them, therefore, I frequently strike them as soon as they take the bait, particularly when I find them in this humour. When the Pike comes, you may see the water move, and when you feel him, strike instantly the contrary way from that which he takes. It is truly laughable

and amusing to see some country people use the snap. They have a long stiff hazel rod or stick in one solid piece, with a small fork at top, to which they fasten a strong twine line, about a foot or two shorter than the rod; immediately on the fish taking the bait, they strike very furiously, and have him out in an instant at their feet, though sometimes they will throw him over their heads to the length of their line; for that the fish has no chance of escaping, except the hold breaks; but this method affords no such sport as other anglers have by playing and gradually landing their fish; though in this way some persons are very successful.

N. B. You must play your fish-bait with a quicker motion with the snap, than in the other methods.

Another way, and the most destructive.

Let your hook be single, with a long shank; and before you fix your swivel at the bottom of your line, put on a large cork float that will swim a gudgeon; then
put

put on the swivel and fix the gimp (to which your hook must be well and neatly whipt) to it ; add a large shot or two, to make it stand up a little, so that when the hook is baited with the gudgeon, it may do so properly. You must keep your gudgeons quite alive, and when you bait stick the hook either through the upper lip, or back fin. Then angle in deep and likely places, letting the bait swim at mid-water, which is done by moving the float higher or lower according to the depth of the water. When you have a bite, let the fish run a little, and then strike him. By this method you may take Perch as well as Pike, especially if you fish with a very small gudgeon, or minnow.

Another way,

Is by artificial fly-fishing, though many assert that they are not to be taken with a fly at all ; I have, however, taken many this way. The fly must be made upon a double hook formed of one piece of wire fastened

fastened to a good link of gimp. It must be composed of very gaudy materials; such as Pheasant's, Peacock's, or Mallard's feathers, &c. with the brown and softest part of Bear's fur, the reddish part of that of a Squirrel, with a little yellow mohair for the body. The head is formed of a little fur, some gold twist, and two small black or blue beads for the eyes. The body must be made rough, full, and round; the wings not parted, but to stand upright on the back, and some smaller feathers continued thence all down the back, to the end of the tail; so that where you finish, they may be left a little longer than the hook, and the whole to be about the size of a Wren. In this manner I make this sort of fly, which will often take Pike when other baits avail nothing; it is chiefly used in dark and windy days; and you must move the fly quick when in the water, to keep it on the surface if possible. There are several sorts of these flies to be had at the fishing-tackle shops both in town and country, as well as of the hooks and tackle before described,
and

and all others for use, completely fitted up to the sportsman's hand.

The Pike will take a small Perch (with the fins cut off) or an Eel; and there are other baits besides fish and frogs that the Pikes will take when on feed; such as worms and fat bacon; they are also taken very often with small artificial water-rats and mice.

In the summer, his best biting time is early in the morning and late in the evening; but in winter he will take at any time of the day. This fish delights in a still, shady, and unfrequented water, with a sandy, chalkey, or clayey bottom.

Your live baits should be kept in a tin kettle, with holes made in the lid; change your water often, which will keep them alive a long while; keep your dead ones in a tin box made for that purpose, with bran, which will be a means of preserving them longer.

There are other ways of taking a Pike, which do not in strict propriety come under the head of Angling; these are as follow:
First,

First, with a ledger bait ; that is, a bait fixed to a certain place, and which you may leave while you angle for other fish. It is best to have your baits alive ; and when you bait, stick the hook through the upper lip, or back fin, if it be a fish ; or if it be a frog, put the arming wire in at his mouth, and out at his gill, and tie the leg above the upper joint, to the wire. The yellowest frogs you can get are always the best for use. Fasten your wire, or gimp, to a strong line, about twelve or fourteen yards long ; tie the other end to a stake made fast in the ground, or the stump of a tree, near the Pike's haunt ; then place a forked stick conveniently near the water, and let the line pass through the fork, suspending the bait about a yard or more in the water, and fix the line slightly into a notch made in one end of the fork, that when a Pike takes the bait, it may easily slip out, so that he may run off with the line in his hold. The best way is to have a large winch or wheel to hold your line, made fast to an iron spindle to fix into the ground.

Secondly,

Secondly, by what I call *fluxing*. Take a grown goose, or duck, and to one of the legs make fast a line with a baited hook and armed wire, of such a length, as to swim about mid-water ; throw it into the river or pond where you think Pikes frequent, keeping it off from land as much as you can. Upon the bait being taken, a duck will instantly be drawn under water ; but, upon recovering a little from the surprise, will soon force her head above again, and attempt to set up a loud quacking ; when in a moment she will be taken down again ; and this contest will continue for some time (especially if the fish be tolerably large) ; till at last the duck, though sometimes nearly exhausted, will tow her prize to shore, and you may take them up both together. A goose, being a much stronger bird, is seldom or ever taken quite under water this way, even by the very large Pike ; but will be so much scared at the attack, and so bewildered for a time, by being pulled about in so many different directions, that at last, upon taking courage, she begins to lash the water

water with her wings, and, adding every effort of strength to her activity, secures a landing, as mentioned of the duck.

You may also flux them by taking any quantity of blown bladders (according to the size the fish run); tie them together closely and strongly; and at the mouth of each let there hang a line to carry the bait about mid-water. Set them off with a gentle wind, just sufficient to move them properly. The Pike having taken the bait, the bladders will dance and tumble about in a diverting manner. When the fish is spent, you may throw out a grapple to recover them, if within your reach; but if the water be broad, a boat will, of course, be necessary. Each of these methods yields infinite diversion to the beholders.—There are also means of taking Pike by trimmers and night-lines.

Thirdly, by snaring, or haltering. The chief season for this sport is, in the hot months, and the hottest part of the day, when the fish appear towards the top of the water. When you see a Pike thus, fix your eyes stedfastly upon him, without looking

looking off, for in that case he will be gone you know not whither. This will make him the stiller. Have your snare with you ready fixed, after this manner: take a straight taper pole, that is stiff and strong enough, but not too heavy, and about four yards in length; fasten to it at the smallest end, a piece of hard twisted whipcord, about a yard long; though it will require more, or less, according to the depth of the water; to the other end of the cord fasten a well-tempered brass wire, made into a noose or snare (or let it be all of wire, without any cord); then, having opened the noose wide enough to slip over the fish's head without touching him, let it down with your pole into the water, even in depth with the Pike, but two or three yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your eyes full upon him till you have brought the snare over his head and gill-fins, but no farther; then immediately, with a strong upright jerk, hoist him to land. You may frequently snare other fish in this way, such as *Trout*, *Carp*, and particularly, large
Eels;

Eels ; but take care that your pole be not rotten.

Pikes are frequently shot while basking themselves in the sun, by aiming your shot right under them; for there is a great deception in the water, besides its causing the shot to rise much when fired into.

THE PERCH

Is a fish of prey, having large teeth in his mouth ; a hog back, on which are two fins, armed with sharp prickles ; his skin is covered over with thick, hard, dry scales ; and his body is thick and deep. These fish are generally taken (where they run large) from about ten to eighteen inches in length. They are very ravenous and bold feeders, devouring even those of their own kind ; but are very wholesome and good eating.

Their haunts, and spawning time.

In rivers, their haunts are chiefly in streams that are not very deep, and where there

there are weeds or other lurking places ; under hollow banks, at gravelly bottoms, and at the turning of eddies. In ponds, among or near weeds and rushes, and in deep holes between weeds or stumps of trees. Some are of opinion, that they spawn either in February or March ; but I am persuaded, that they spawn chiefly in May.

Their baits ; how to angle for them ; and their biting times.

There are many baits for taking the *Perch* ; but a *Worm*, *Minnow*, *Stickleback*, or a very small *Frog*, are the best. Your Worms should be either well scoured *brandlings*, *red dunghills*, or those found in *rotten tan*.—Your hook, No. 4, 5, or 6, being well whipt to a strong silk-worm gut, with a shot or two on it, put the point of the hook in at the head of the worm, and out again a little lower than the middle, and draw it above the flank of the hook upon the gut ; then take a smaller one, beginning the same way, and bring the head

head up to the middle of the shank only; then draw the first Worm down to the head of the latter, so that the tails may hang one above the other, keeping the point of the hook well covered. This is the most enticing method that can be adopted in Worm-fishing. Use a small cork float, to keep the bait about a foot from the bottom, or sometimes about mid-water. To draw these fish together, take three or four balls of the best and stiffest clay that can be procured; make holes in them, put one end of a lob-worm into each hole, and close the clay fast upon them; then throw them into the water where you mean to angle, about a yard or more distant from each other. The Worms, being alive in the balls, will move and twist about, which tempts the fish to feed upon them; but the Worms that you angle with being of a superior kind, they will, on sight of them, leave those in the clay, and seize yours with the greatest eagerness, when you have thus brought them upon their feed; for, by this method, you may draw the fish together, as readily
as

as you can poultry in their way. Not *Perch* only, but many other kinds of fish, are drawn together by this ground bait, so that you may at times try the gentle or maggot, and other baits. If you are out in a bad day, and the *Perch* will not be thus brought on feed, slip your float up the line near to the point of your rod, or take it off, and begin to rove for them thus: let down the line longer than the rod, or as long as you can properly throw it out, without injuring your bait, (which should be worms,) and throw it sometimes right across the water, sometimes up, and at others down, and in all directions, drawing the bait towards you, and playing it with the same motion as you spin the minnow; so keep moving about, angling in such places as you think proper. When a fish takes the bait, slacken the line, and give him time before you strike. I have had good sport this way in bad weather, when all other methods would avail nothing; but more
N especially

especially when there has been a rough wind from the south or west.

When you rove with a minnow, let it be alive; stick the hook in at the back fin or upper lip, and let him swim in mid-water, or a little lower, by means of a cork float, (such a one as he cannot take under water,) and have a few shot on your line within about nine inches of the hook, to keep the bait down, or he will come to the top of the water when tired. When you fish with a frog, put the hook through the skin of his back, and he will swim the easier. When you have a bite, be sure that you give him line enough, and let him gorge the bait. This way of fishing is best in the months of May and June; for then the Perch are roving about in search of the young fry of the Dace, Roach, and other fish. If you suspect there are *Pike* where you angle, have your hook armed with gimp, and you may take them as well as *Perch*.

The

The *Perch* bite best in the latter part of the spring ; but they are to be taken all the year round. The best times for taking them are from about half an hour before the even hours of the day, to half an hour after, except in hot and bright weather, and then from sun-rise to six o'clock in the morning ; and in the evening, from six to sun-set. If the day be cool and cloudy, with a ruffling south wind, they will bite all day. When the water has been clear, I have often observed a dozen or two of *Perch* in company in a deep place where it has been sheltered by trees or bushes ; and by keeping myself out of sight, and putting in a nice well-scoured worm with fine tackle among them, have seen them strive which should take it first, and have so continued till I have taken the whole.

THE RUFF, OR POPE,

Very much resembles the *Perch*. It is of a brown duskyish colour about the back,

and of a palish yellow about the belly ; the upper part of the eye is of a dark brown, the lower part somewhat yellow, and the globe of it black ; it is marked on the jaws with a double course of half circles ; the body is rough, with hard scales and sharp prickly fins, which, with the tail, are marked with black spots. In length they are generally about four or five inches or more ; they are thicker and more bulky in their make than the Perch, and are much more admired for the richness and delicacy of their flavour, as well as their wholesomeness.

Their haunts and spawning-time.

They are to be found in reclusé places, where the water is deep and runs quietly, with a loamy or muddy bottom ; and also in still water. They associate in great numbers, and afford good sport, especially to the young angler. Their principal time of spawning is at the beginning of April ; but I am of opinion that some spawn again in October.

*How to angle for them ; their baits, and
biting-times.*

Angle for them with tolerably fine tackle ; your hook No. 7, with a cork or quill float ; and having, by plumbing, found a level bottom, let your bait just run on the ground, and throw in some small clay-balls with worms, the same as for Perch (for want of which, use mud-balls, to colour the water if it be clear). You may manage three rods, by laying two of them down, for the bait to rest on the bottom, and fishing with the other in your hand as above directed. Your bait must be a small well-scoured red worm, which is the best and indeed the only proper bait to take them with. When you have a bite, you need not give them much time, for they will sometimes gorge the bait so hastily, that you must use your disgorging, or cut them open, to get out the hook. By angling for them thus, you may often take six or eight dozen at a standing. They will bite all day long,

either in the spring or summer, especially if there be a brisk warm wind; though they will sometimes bite freely in cold weather.

THE GUDGEON.

I here treat of this fish, because where there are *Gudgeons* and *Ruffs* in the same water, they keep company together, as do the *Trout* and *Grayling*; though it is not every river that produces the *Ruff*, but the *Gudgeon* is to be found in most rivers. Though properly river fishes, however, they are sometimes found in ponds that are fed by springs. They are leather-mouthed, with a small barb on each side of it; are well shaped, and of nearly a silver colour, having both body and tail adorned with black spots. They are, in general, from about five to six inches in length; but in some waters run much larger than in others. They are good and wholesome eating.

Their

Their haunts and spawning-time.

Gudgeons delight most in gravelly and sandy ground, and gentle streams. About the latter end of spring they seek shallow water, which they continue to frequent during the hot months; but all the rest of the year they are generally taken in deep water, where the bottom is sandy with mud. Their chief time of spawning is the latter end of April and beginning of May; but in my opinion they spawn again during the summer, and also in the beginning of autumn.

How to angle for them; their baits, and biting-times.

When you angle for Gudgeons in the shallows, your tackle must be very fine; a hook No. 7 or 8, with a cork or quill float; and be sure to let the bait touch the ground; some, however, prefer a running line without a float. You should also be provided with a Gudgeon-rake, or

pole, to stir up the sand and gravel, which discolours the water, and draws them together in shoals; and by now and then throwing in a few broken worms, you may often take great quantities. Their baits are the small red worm, gentle, and blood-worm; the last of which I think the best in this way of angling. When you fish in the deeps, let it be exactly in the same way as for the Ruffs; by which means you may take small *Perch*, *Ruffs*, and *Gudgeons*. You may often indeed take some of them when fishing for Roach and Dace, and some of the latter when angling for the former. Their biting-time is nearly all day long, from the latter end of spring to the beginning of autumn; they bite well in gloomy warm days, but seldom begin till about an hour after sun-rise, leaving off about an hour before sun-set. For the rest of the year they only bite about the middle of the day, when the wind blows a little warmish; for they do not like to bite in very cold weather, nor soon after they have spawned;

spawned ; but at other times, when in the humour, no fish bites more freely, nor makes better sport for the young angler.

THE TENCH

May properly be termed the *fish's physician*, on account of a natural balsam which he carries about him, that will cure both himself and others ; so that if any other fish receive a wound, he will seek out the *Tench*, and rubbing the part affected against him. (which the *Tench* will suffer him to do) receive a certain cure, by virtue of this balsam, or slime, that is natural about him ; and it seems as if the voracious *Pike* were sensible of this sovereign virtue, for he will not hurt a *Tench* of any size whatever. It is a delicious fish, and exceedingly wholesome. It is leather-mouthed, and from each corner of the mouth there hangs a little barb ; his eyes are large, and of a gold colour, having the irides red ; it has small smooth scales,

scales, very large smooth fins, and will live some time out of the water.

Their haunts, spawning-time, and season.

Their haunts are the same both in rivers and ponds, being chiefly among weeds, and in places that are well shaded with bushes and rushes. They delight and thrive more in foul than clear water, and are much more numerous in ponds and pits than in rivers, though those taken in the latter are far preferable. They begin to spawn the latter end of June, and will be found spawning in some ponds the latter end of September. The Tench is best in season from the latter end of September till near their spawning-time.

How to angle for them; their baits, and biting-times.

Your tackle must be pretty strong, with a cork, swan, or goose-quill float; the

the hook from No. 3 to No. 6, whipt to a strong filk-worm-gut with two or three shot. Angle where there are weeds about two feet deep, or at mid-water, and sometimes a little lower, according as they are in the humour to take. But if there be not a great quantity of mud in the water, use small clay-balls, as for the Perch, and now and then throw in a few gentles, which will keep them together. Fish half a foot from the bottom; but should the mud be so deep as to cover the balls when thrown in, keep to the former way, and bait the hole with bits of lob-worms and gentles. When you have a bite, allow some time before you strike. They take several baits; but the best of all is the small red worm taken out of rotten tan, and used without any scouring; though they will at times take the gentle, wasp, maggot, and green worm from the boughs of trees. They generally come out to feed at the hours of four, eight, and twelve; but their best time of biting is, late and early, from the middle of April

till they begin to spawn, and afterwards in August, and the early part of September.

N. B. When you take any out of very muddy places, keep them alive, put them into a tub of clear water, and in a short time they will cleanse themselves of that muddy quality to which they are subject; and this will give them a more excellent flavour.

THE CARP

Is a fine noble-looking fish, originally of foreign extraction, and gifted by Nature with such cunning, that he is by some termed the *fresh-water fox*. His head is short in proportion to his body; he has neither tongue nor teeth, but has a fleshy palate, and is leather-mouthed; his back rises from his head somewhat sharp and edged; his tail is broad and forked, of a colour between red and black, as is also the lower fin; he has strong, large, broad scales, and is of a yellowish colour when grown; but the young ones appear more of a dusky colour. He is
supposed

supposed to live to a greater age than any other scaled fish. The flesh, though wholesome, is rather coarse ; but it goes down very well with good sauce.

Their haunts, spawning-time, and season.

Their haunts are in the deepest parts of rivers (where the water runs gently) with soft muddy bottoms ; and in ponds with marly, clayey, or muddy bottoms, where they can be well shaded with trees ; and they certainly spawn several times in the year ; but their first and chiefest time is in May, and they breed more abundantly in ponds than in running water ; but the *river Carp* are much preferable to all others. They are best in season in March and April.

How to angle for them, their baits, and biting-times.

Your rod should be long and strong ; your line strong also, with a quill float, and a hook of a medium size, whipt to a
good

good silk-worm-gut, on which have one or two shot only, about a foot from the hook. Be mindful to keep out of sight as much as you can, and lay the line in as gently as possible. When you mean to angle for them in earnest, you should have three rods; one with the bait about mid-water, another about a foot or less from the bottom, and the third to lie on the bottom, where the line and shot are not discovered as they are other ways; but you should, the night before, bait the places in which you intend to fish the next day with ale-grains, blood, and broken worms, incorporated with clay. This is the best ground-bait that can possibly be used for them; and the hook-baits should be the same as those for the *Tench*. Many sorts of paste are used; but I never found them effectual.

The best method to take *Carp* is with green peas (when in season); these must be boiled a little softish, but not so much as to break the skin; throw a few of them now and then into the water where you angle,

angle, and put one of them on your hook so as to swim near a foot from the bottom; and in this way of angling, when you have a bite, strike immediately. There is another pleasing way of taking them, particularly in warm weather, when near their spawning-times, and while they are amusing themselves amongst the weeds near the surface of the water; which is, by using as fine a line as you think you dare venture upon, and baiting either with a fine red or white worm, two gentles, a green worm that is taken from trees and bushes, or a cadbate. The line must be without float or shot, thrown out gently, in the same manner as in fly-fishing, and drawn towards you, so as to keep the bait a little under water; but always contrive, if possible, to let the bait fall on the leaves of docks or weeds that swim on the surface of the water; then draw it off very gently, and you will frequently find the *Carp* take it immediately on its dropping into the water. These two last methods I hold to be peculiar to myself;

myself; and by adopting them I have astonished many, even some of the best anglers in these kingdoms. Carps are, in general, very difficult to take on account of their sagacity and cunning; so that there is a necessity of exercising the virtue of patience when you sport for them. When you hook a Carp, give him play enough, or he will break your tackle, being not only strong in his element, but a great struggler. His biting-time is early and late, particularly in the warm months; but at other seasons you may take some at different times of the day, according as the weather is, and they are in the humour.

THE CHUB, CHEVIN, NOB, OR BOTLING.

This fish is known in different parts of the country, and by different persons, under these several names. The *Chub* much resembles the *Carp*, but is of a longer form; his head is short, and his teeth are in his throat; he has a very wide leather-mouth,

mouth, broad scales, is altogether a handsome fish to look at, and will sometimes weigh upwards of five pounds ; yet it is not in much esteem, the flesh being coarse, and, when not in season, full of small hairy bones ; the roe, however, is exceedingly good.

Their haunts, spawning-time, and season.

Their haunts are chiefly in rivers whose bottoms are sandy or clayey ; in deep holes among rocks, and under hollow banks ; in those that are shaded with trees, weeds, &c. and sometimes in streams and deep water where the current is strong ; they are also found very large in ponds into which rivulets run. They spawn the latter end of April, and are in season from the beginning of August till the latter end of March ; but are most in perfection in the winter months, having then very few of those hairy bones before mentioned.

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How

How to angle for them; their baits, and biting-times.

You should have a stout long rod, a good strong line, with a yard or more of the strongest silk-worm-gut at bottom; your hook proportioned in size to that of the bait which you use; a swan-quill float, and the line shotted about eight or ten inches from the hook, sufficient to sink the quill, except about a quarter of an inch; use the same ground-bait as for *Carp*, baiting your hook with a sufficient quantity of the hard roe of a Salmon (boiled a little) to fill the bend properly, which is an excellent bait when rightly managed. They will take gentles, wasp-maggots (which must be baked in an oven before they are used), paste made of new fine white bread without being made wet, worked up in the hand, and coloured with vermillion as near as possible to that of the Salmon's roe; this paste will not easily wash off the hook, and is the most killing bait of the kind

kind that can be used. But the best baits of all for bottom or float-fishing for the Chub are, old Cheshire cheese, (such as will mould in your hand without crumbling,) and the pith from the back-bone of an ox or a cow, with the outward skin taken off carefully, so as not to bruise the inward skin. They will take the former of these two at all times of the year; but the best time to use them both is at the latter end of summer and all the winter. When you bait with the cheese, put a round lump about the size of a cherry on a large hook, to cover the bend, and some way up the shank. Fish about half a foot from the bottom, or you may let your bait lie on the ground, particularly in cold raw weather; but if you do not bait the hole, you may fish at any depth you please. When you have a bite, the float will very swiftly be drawn under water; then strike immediately; and when you hook him, give him play enough, holding a tolerably tight line to keep him clear of weeds or stumps, which at sight

of you he will endeavour to reach for shelter; and if not properly managed, he will break your tackle, though his hold seldom or never breaks. In the spring of the year they will take a small red worm.

These fish are also to be taken at the top or a little under water, by a very pleasant method, which is called *dibbing*, *dipping*, or *bobbing*, and is performed in hot weather, when you may find them basking on the surface of the water where they haunt; but you must be very careful to keep out of sight; for the *Chub* will fly under water even at the shadow of the rod. Having your line wound up to the length of about a yard, or as convenience requires, bait the hook with a *Grass-hopper*, if to be had, and lay it softly and with caution about four or five inches before the fish that you wish to catch, and he will infallibly take it. They will also take the cadbate or caddis, cock-chaffers, (which in some countries are called caterpillars,) beetles, blue-bottles, and almost
any

any natural or artificial fly that is in season. You may also bob for them over bushes, and under hollow banks, where the fish cannot see you nor you them; but they are felt very forcibly when they take. They are often caught by the common way of fly-fishing, with a long line and artificial fly, particularly the red spinner, and also, when sporting for other kinds of fish. Their biting times are chiefly from before sun rise till eight or ten o'clock in the morning, and from four till after sunset in the evening in the summer, (though some will take by chance at any time of the day,) and in the middle of the day in winter.

THE RUD, OR FINSCALE,

Is a fish not much known in these countries. It is broader than a *Carp* or a *Roach*, but not so thick, yet not so flat or thin as a *Bream*; it is of a dusky yellow colour, with large scales; the holes of the nostrils are double on each side; the palate like that of a *Carp*; the eyes reddish; on the covers of the gills are spots of a
o 3 blood

blood colour, the gill fins are whiter than the others; the belly fins of a deepish red, and the back fin is darker than the rest. The general length of this fish is from about ten to sixteen inches, some of them weighing two pounds and upwards. Their flesh is exceedingly wholesome, and much esteemed; but they are very scarce.—[See the Account of the Rivers, &c. in Part I.]

Their haunts, season, and time of spawning.

Their haunts in rivers are chiefly in deepish gentle streams and deep still water, where the bottom has a kind of slimy mud, sand, or fine gravel, and among weeds; and in other waters, in holes among the weeds. They are always in season, except in the time of spawning, which is in April, when they swim in shoals, casting their spawn among the weeds that grow in the water.

How to angle for them; their baits, and biting-times.

Your tackle must be pretty strong, with a quill float, and a hook proportioned to the

the bait you angle with, baiting the hole the same as for *Cbub*, and fishing about the same depths, except on the ground. Their baits, in this way, are, a fine red worm, gentles, wasp-maggots, caddis, and the paste before mentioned. When you fish among weeds, have no float nor shot, and use the worm or other bait a little under water.—They are taken at top, either with natural or artificial flies, by whipping with a long line, or dlobbering or bobbing with a short one, as before described.—Their biting times are, in warm bright weather, early and late; when a little coolish, the fore and afternoons; and in the winter, when you can stand it, the middle of the day. This fish, when hooked, struggles hard, and requires time in landing.

THE BREAM

Is a very coarse fish, and little esteemed, being very bony, and the flesh soft and clammy; it sometimes affords good sport to those who choose to angle for it the right

way. He has a sharp nose, a small sucking mouth in proportion to his size, no teeth, but a soft fleshy palate; the head is small, somewhat broad at the top, and smooth; it has a hog back, of a colour between blue and black; the sides of the largest are of a yellowish colour, and the belly reddish; it has a forked tail, and is much flatter and broader than the Roach.

Their haunts, spawning-time, and season.

In rivers they delight most in gentle soft streams, and in the deepest and broadest parts, near weeds, where the bottom is clay or sand; and in ponds, in the most quiet, wide, and deep parts. They begin to spawn about the latter end of June, and are most in season when big with roe.

How to angle for them, their baits, and biting-times.

You should have a strong line, with gut at bottom, the hook for a worm No. 5,
but

but for other baits smaller, and a swan-quill float. When you have fixed upon a place to angle in, plumb the bottom, and let your bait run about an inch from it. You may have another rod or two, which you may lay down, and let the baits be on the ground, keeping from the water as far as convenience will permit; then throw into the place a ground bait of malt grains, bran, blood, and clay, which should be done over night as well as at the time you angle. Their best baits, however, are the red paste, gentles, wasp-maggots, the small red worm, and the grass-hopper in June and July.—The Bream is a strong fish, and runs hard when first hooked; but after two or three turns he will fall on his side, which enables you to bring him to land with ease.—The best times of biting are, from sun-rise to eight o'clock in the morning, and from four in the afternoon to sun-set; and it is best angling when the water is a little thick after rains, for at such times they will frequently take all day.

THE ROACH

Is a pretty fish, either in, or fresh out of the water. It has a small head, a leather-mouth, which is small also, and its teeth are in the throat; the circle of the eye resembles a gold colour; it has a hog back, which is tolerably thick for its size; the scales are large; the fins in general red, particularly when in season; and the tail is a little forked. It is a very silly fish, and the flesh of it is but in little esteem, being rather bony, though exceedingly wholesome, and the roe particularly good. There is a kind of *Roach* in some ponds and standing waters, that is very flat, having whitish eyes and fins, and the tail more forked than those in rivers, but which are good for nothing; they seem to be of a species between a *Roach* and a *Bream*, and never grow very large.—Roach are much better in some rivers than others, but there are none of them good in ponds. They are taken in many rivers as large as near two pounds weight; but the best size for eating

eating is about half a pound ; and in my opinion they are not so despicable as many affect to think them, perhaps because being so numerous they are very common.

Their haunts, spawning-time; and season.

They delight in deep, gentle, running water, and holes that are well shaded, having the bottom fine gravel, sand, or a kind of limy marl. In the summer they often frequent more shallow water about the tails of fords, under banks, and among weeds, particularly when the water is thick. They spawn in May, begin to be in season in July, and continue so till near their time of spawning again, but are best in the winter season.

How to angle for them, their baits and biting-times.

The best way of angling for these fish is the following : Let your rod be long or short, proportioned to the place you fish in,

in, rather stiff, and such a one as will strike true; your line about a foot shorter than the rod, pretty strong at top, and taper to the bottom, which must be a fine smooth silk-worm-gut, coloured brownish, or of a water-colour; the hook No. 8. Put one small shot on your line about a hand's length from the hook, and the rest large, close together, about four or five inches higher up, sufficient so to sink the float (which should be a swan quill) as that you may just discern the top of it above water. When you fix on a place for sport, plumb the bottom, and let your float carry the bait not more than an inch from it. The bottom must be level, the run gentle, and the water deep when clear, or in winter; at other times, when the water is coloured with a fresh, and especially if on the rise, you may take them best at depths from about three quarters of a yard to that of a yard and half. If you fish where there is a tide, or when the water is on the rise or fall, you must be careful to plumb now and then, and keep your depth, as near as possible, as above directed.

directed. When you have thus taken the depth, lay aside your rod, and throw in at the top of your swim three balls of ground bait (about the size of an egg) with a small stone in each to sink them to the bottom, and these will gradually break and spread about, and entice the fish to stop there after being drawn together: this bait is to be made with large wheat bran, a little sweet coarse flour sufficient to bind the bran, and scalding water, so as you may make it up in a large ball or two the size of a penny loaf, but not nearly so stiff as dough, so that it may not break in going down; for if it stick together too much, it will not break in the water; if too little, it will wash away, and the fish will all follow it. Be careful also, when you throw your little balls in, that they do not go too far out, for you should fish over them. Bait with a grain or too of Salmon's roe, or a small round bit of red paste in imitation of it, (such as mentioned before for the Chub,) or with gentles; but I never use any other sort of bait for this method than the paste, for that

that is equally as good as the roe, and will continue on the hook a long time (even if you strike and miss the fish) without that absurd way of using cotton amongst it. You must keep a sharp eye on the float; strike at the least nibble; and when you hook a fish, if it be large give him play; for they are strong, and struggle much; therefore never use a single hair line, as some advise, especially where the fish run large. They are also to be taken in warm weather with cads and natural flies under water, and an artificial fly at top, particularly in warm close evenings a little before sun-set, till near dark; but then you must have a well-scoured gentle at the end of the fly. They will, however, take many other baits, particularly most of those mentioned for *Chub*.—In mild cloudy weather, they will bite all day; in hot, morning and evening; and in cold, in the middle of the day.

N. B. If the water be not too clear two hooks may be used in the first way, by taking a small bit of gut about two

or three inches long, with a hook to it, and looping it very neatly close above the single shot, so that it may stand out from the line; bait it with gentles, and the lower hook with the paste or roe; and sometimes, when you find them shy, with a gentle slipped into the bend of the hook, and a grain of the roe or paste on the point.

THE DACE, OR DARE,

Is in nature similar to the *Roach*, but differs from it in make, by having a wider mouth, blunter nose, and larger head, and in being longer and thicker; the scales are not quite so large, nor are the fins red; it is a brisker and more lively fish in the water, and is upon the whole more handsome than the other; it is also better eating, being sweeter, and not quite so dry; neither is it so bony; the roe of it is also very good.

They *haunt* mostly the same places as the *Roach*; but they are frequently found more in the streams and stronger parts of the

the water, among weeds, and may be seen in shoals on the shallows near to streams, particularly in the warm months. They *spawn* in *March*, come in season soon afterwards, and continue so till near their spawning time again, but are best in the winter. Angle for them at bottom, in the same way as for *Roach*; for they mix together, and take the same baits.

But the best way to take *Dace* from the middle of April to the beginning of October is, by artificial fly-fishing with a long line; the fly generally either black, brown, or red, made very small on a hook No. 8 or 9; or you may have the three on the line together, about a yard from each other, letting the black one be the end fly, with a gentle at the end of it, and the other two the drop-flies without the gentle.—Thus you may take a hundred of them in the course of the morning or afternoon, when they are on the fords as above mentioned, and the weather favourable; particularly in rivers where the tide flows a moderate height (as in the *Thames*, for instance, between Kew and Richmond bridges);

bridges); for every tide is a kind of fresh to the fish, and as it clears off, they will take wonderfully this way, at any time of the day. Their biting time is chiefly the same as the *Roach*; and after a hot, bright day, they will take the above flies in the clearest water, from a little before sun-set till you can see to angle for them no longer.

This is a fish that affords great sport to the angler; so that there is more pleasure in catching, than in eating it.

THE BLEAK, BLEY, OR WHITING,

Is a very pretty but small fish, being seldom or never more than six inches long. The head is small, and the scull transparent; the eyes are large with a blood coloured spot on the lower side; the body is somewhat broadish and flat, not much unlike that of a sprat. The back is of a blueish brown, or greenish colour; the scales thin, and of a silver colour, and the fins white.—Some call it the *Water Swallow*, on account of its nimbleness in catching

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ing flies; and others the *fresh water Sprat*. The flesh is sweet and pleasant, and would be in more esteem if the fish were larger. They are very restless, generally moving about from place to place, their *haunts* being sometimes in deep, still water, and at the sides and tails of streams, where the water shelves off, and takes a gentle turn back again; at others, in the streams, which may be observed by their swimming near the surface of the water, and their very active manner of taking and diverting themselves with small flies and insects. They are always in season except when spawning, which I take to be in May. When you angle purposely for the *Bleak*, your tackle must be very fine, with four or five small hooks a little above each other, swimming by the assistance of a small quill float a little deeper than mid-water, and baited with different baits, such as a gentle, a blood-worm, a small caddis or stick-bait, the house fly (or any fly that you observe them feed upon), and a very small bit of red paste, throwing in now and then a small handful of malt grains, or a little chewed bread,

bread, to keep them together. By this method you may take two or three at a time; and this is frequently done by whipping also, using the small *Dace flies*. In a summer's evening, they afford great sport, and are very instructive to the young *fly-fisher*.

N. B. I shall here remark, that by the method set down for *Roach-fishing* with the ground bait, paste, &c. may be taken also, the *Chub*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, *Bleak*, *Bream*, and sometimes the *Perch*; and let it be always remembered, that your ground baits must be inferior to your hook baits.

THE MINNOW, OR PINK,

Is one of the smallest fishes. It is of a greenish or wavy sky colour on the sides, having no scales; the back blackish, and the belly white. Though so diminutive in size, the Minnow may be compared, for the excellency of its taste, to some of the most famed fish. They are usually full of spawn all the summer, (for they breed often,) during which time, particularly in

hot days, they will bite very eagerly all day long, and afford great sport to youths and others that like to angle for them.— You should have three or four very small hooks baited with the smallest red worm you can get, or a bit of one ; and a small quill float. Fish deeper than mid-water, or near the ground in shallow places, and at the sides of small streams. They have been noticed before as being excellent baits.

THE LOACH

Is a very small slimy fish without scales, and of rather a longish make. He is bearded like the *Gudgeon* and *Barbel*, and freckled with black and light brownish spots. The Loach is of a very pleasant taste, and is recommended to sick persons as being very nourishing.—He is found by the sides of streams, and in rivulets, among the gravel, or where there is a little slight mud and gravel together, with weeds ; and is to be taken with a very small red worm. This fish is a good bait for others, particularly for *Eels*.

THE

THE BULL-HEAD, OR MILLER'S-THUMB,

Is a very small fish, and unpleasant to look at, having a large broad head, not much unlike that of a toad, and very disproportioned to his body, which is quite small. It has a large mouth, no teeth, but the lips are like a fine file, and with these it nibbles its food. It has no scales, but is speckled with black, brown, and whitish spots. The largest of them are excellent eating, after you have cut away the head. — They spawn in *April*, and are found all the summer in holes among mud and stones, and among weeds and stones in clear water, wherein you may see them sunning themselves in a hot day, upon flat stones and on the gravel. Put your hook with a small red worm before them, and they will take it instantly. A child, or those who know nothing about angling, may take them this way. They are also good baits,

THE STICKLERACK, BANSTICKLE, OR
SHARPLING,

Is an extremely small prickly fish (the smallest of all), and is called by these several names in different countries. They are not worth the angler's notice, except to serve as baits, with the prickles cut off; for which purpose they are as good as the Minnow, or better for the *Persch*, in pond fishing. They may be taken with a very small hook, and a bit of a small worm, and are to be found in most stagnated waters, and little inlets of rivers, &c.

Though I have mentioned the most proper baits for all the different fish that I have described in due order; yet it remains for me to give instructions for procuring and preserving some of them for use.

The Gentle, or Maggot.

Those who live in or near London may buy gentles in proper condition for the day

day on which they wish to use them; but for the convenience of those who reside in the country, remote from such convenience, I shall set down the best method of breeding them.

Take an ox's or cow's liver, and scarify it pretty deeply all over; then hang it up and cover it, but not too closely, as the flies will blow it better this way than open. In two or three days the gentles may be seen alive; then take down the liver, and put it into a deep earthen pan; and there let it remain till you find that the first brood are of full growth; then put into the pan, (letting the liver remain,) a sufficient quantity of fine sand and bran, and in a few days they will come out of the liver into it, and scour themselves; in a short time after, if you put any instrument through the liver and hang it across the pan, the rest, or latter brood, will soon drop out and become fit for use; and thus you may preserve them for winter fishing, if you are so inclined, by breeding them in October, and keeping them a little warmer than those bred in the summer,

till they come to their full growth, after which they are to be put into a dampish vault, in the same pan.

Those bred in the summer time, if it were not for the bran and sand, which preserves them, as well as makes them clean enough to be handled, would very soon sink into a death-like state, the skins becoming blackish, red husks full of white matter, and in a short time afterwards they would become flies (a superior state to a crawling worm). Those produced in the autumn, from any thing whatever, will continue in this state all the winter, provided they can get just under the surface of the earth, in fields, gardens, &c. &c. and in the spring, as the weather becomes warmish, they change into flies. Thus they preserve their kind from year to year,

The Cadbate,

This is a very excellent bait, and is to be found in most plenty, in gravelly and stony rivulets, and by the sides of streams in large rivers, among stones. When you want

want them, turn up the stones, and you will find the best stick to them. When you have procured a sufficient quantity, put them into a linen bag, hang them up, and dip them, bag and all, into water once a day, for five or six days; they will then turn yellow, become tough and fit for use, being much better for angling than when first taken out of the water. There are different sorts of them, according to the countries they are bred in; and it is curious to observe the very different flies that they produce.

The Lob, or Dew-Worm,

Is found in gardens, pasture lands, &c. late in summer evenings, with a lanthorn and candle. They are also to be dug up in fields, and other places by the sides of ditches and drains. The best sort are those that are free from knots, with a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail, from which, in some countries, they are called squirrel tails. To scour and preserve them for use, take some moss; (the best is that which grows on heaths, being

being soft and white, and when gathered will be clear and free from dirt at the roots) dip it into clean water, wring it dryish, and put half of it into an earthen pot, then the worms, and the other part of the moss, at top ; cover it close that they may not get out, and keep it in a cool place in summer, and in a warmer in winter, so as to prevent the hot weather or frost from killing them. The moss must be changed every third or fourth day in summer, and once in about six days in winter. In a week's time your worms will begin to be fit for use ; from these supply your worm-bag, when you require this kind of worm ; and what you have not used, (upon your return home) put into the pot again.

Brandlings, Red Worms, and Gilt-Tails,

Are found in the same dunghills together, which consist of hog's dung, horse's dung, and rotten earth ; and also in old thatch and dung ; but those worms
that

that are found in tanner's bark, after it has been used and laid by till quite rotten, are the best of all; and, as before observed, they are generally better for angling without any scouring. You may preserve all these together in one pot, as in the case of *Lob-Worms*; and when you mean to use the *Brandlings*, or others, pick them out by themselves the evening before, and put them into a bag, with moss moistened with sweet thinish cream, and they will appear more beautiful and tempting.

The long White Worms,

Found chiefly in turnip-fields where the soil is of a stiffish quality, are longer than the *Brandlings*, and naturally tough; and are a good bait, especially in muddy water. Preserve them in some of their own earth, keeping it properly damp, with some moss at top.

The

The Marsh-Worms

Are to be found in marshy ground, and rich banks of rivers; they are of a blueish cast, are tender, and require more scouring in moss than most other worms, but are good baits.

The Cow-dung Red Worms

Are found in the fields under cow-dung nearly dry. The heads of these worms are of a shining dark brown; they have flat tails, are good baits, and may occasionally be used when taken, if the angler has exhausted the worm-baits he took out with him; but are best scoured and preserved as other worms.

The Cow-dung Bobs,

So called in general, are the produce of the *Beetles*, and are found, in the state of worms or grubs, under cow-dung and horse-dung in the fields, when it is about half

half dry. They are of a yellowish white, with red heads ; and are best preserved in some of the earth from under the dung where they are found, and a little fine moss, taking care to keep them moist and cool.

The Short White Worms, or Bobs,

Are found in mellow sandy ground, and chiefly in the autumn by following the plough. They have pale red heads, are yellowish at the tail, and their bodies, when taken, resemble the colour of the earth they are found in, but when scoured are of a pale white. They are an excellent winter bait, and to preserve them, you should keep them in a pot in some of their own earth with dryish moss at top, and let them be in a warm place. The best way to render them tough is, to put them into boiling milk for about two minutes, or less, the morning you mean to use them.

Dock

Dock, or Flag-Worms,

Are to be found among docks or flags, in old pits, and other such places, by pulling them up, when you may find these grubs in little husks among the fibres of the roots. They are of a paleish yellow or white, and may be preserved in the same way as the *Cadbate*.

The long Dock-Worms

Are of a fine pale red, without knots. They are chiefly found in moist places near dock-roots, and are best taken by shaking the earth with a dung-fork. They are excellent baits, especially for Carp and Tench, and may be preserved in moss. In the largest sort of *sedges* may be found, in the hollow parts near the roots, a black-headed large grub about an inch long, which is not to be found in any other place: it is a good bait for pond-fishing, though it is very tender, but may be rendered tougher by boiling, as mentioned of the *Bobs*.

The

The Palmers, and other Grubs,

Are found by beating the branches of oaks, crab-trees, hawthorns, and others, that grow over highways, paths, and open places. When you have picked up a sufficient quantity, in order to preserve them for use, put each sort into different boxes, with little holes on the top and sides, to give them air; and let them have room enough; put to them a little of the bark, and a proper quantity of the leaves from which they were taken. Feed them five or six times a week, and every time you change the bark and leaves be sure to take all the old away. Keep your boxes in a garden, or any where among grass, and you will find them good, but tender baits. Some Palmers are also found on herbs and plants. There are likewise the *Cabbage-Grubs*, found on, and in the hearts of cabbages, which are nearly as good baits as the *Cadbates*. These are to be fed and preserved

preserved with the same kind of leaves as they are found on.

Salmon's Roe.

Those who wish to preserve this bait for winter and spring fishing, may do it, by boiling it as heretofore observed; then, having a glazed earthen pot, sprinkle a little salt over the roe, put a layer of wool at the bottom of the pot, and then a layer of roe, and so on till the pot is filled. It is a very good bait.

Numerous *pastes* and *oils*, which many have prescribed for enticing fish to bite, are preposterous and idle chimeras.

*The best method of getting and seasoning
Sticks and Tops for Rods, and making
them.*

THOSE who live in the country, and wish to make their own *Rods*, should get them in the winter time, when the sap is in

9

parts if you ferrule it, according to the width of the water you angle in, or as you wish to have it in length, taking care that they fit with the greatest nicety; so that though there be so many joints, the whole rod may move as if it were but of one piece. If you do not ferrule the parts, mind that they are cut to join each other with the greatest exactness, and spliced neatly with glue boiled in strong quicklime water, and stirred till it becomes smooth and all alike; and whip them well with waxed thread, as before observed of the fly-rods. When your rod is completed, varnish it over neatly with a varnish made of half a pint of linseed oil and a little India rubber scraped fine; put them over a slow fire, and stir them well together till the rubber be dissolved, and boil and skim it; use it warm, and lay the rod aside till quite dry; it will appear on the rod like a fine thin bark, is very durable, and will preserve it from being worm-eaten, and from other injuries. If the rod be a hollow one, tie a

rag to the end of a stick, dip it in linseed oil, and rub it well in the inside about three or four times a year.

How to make Hair Lines, choose Hooks, &c.

LET your hairs be long, round, clear, and free from frets or scales; of a kind of glass colour, or of a pale blueish or green watery cast, and light bay; and for a fly-line, if you mean to fish without a reel, take three hairs, put them level at top, and knot them there; then cut off the other ends, as far as they appear faint, leaving all of the same length; then hold them near the top, between your thumb and finger of the left hand, and begin to twist them towards you with the thumb and finger of the right hand, stroking them after every twist, below the hand you hold them in, to keep them open and free from snarls, which the twisting sometimes occasions; in this manner proceed to the end, and then knot it.

When you have made four of these, make four more with four hairs each, and then four with five hairs ; and so on, till you have as many as will complete your line ; then put them into water for about twenty minutes, when you will find whether any of the hairs shrink in the links ; and such as do must be twisted over again. When your links are thus finished, take the four smallest and tie them together in water-knots, leaving the finest, if there be any difference, still lowermost, and so on till your line is made ; then cut away the short ends pretty near to the knots, whip them with well-waxed silk, and make a loop at each end of the line, the strongest end to fasten on to the loop at the top of your rod, and the other to loop your bottom links to, which should never consist of more than two or three, of either gut or hair, for fly or bottom-fishing. This kind of line should be made from nine to twelve yards in length. When you
with

wish to make strong lines for bottom or other angling, you may begin with any number of hairs, and increase them every link, or every other; but for very strong lines you should use an engine, which may be bought at the fishing-tackle shops, with proper directions for using it. †

N. B. When you make links of four hairs, you may divide them as you twist, keeping two on each side your hand; and when your links consist of six hairs, keep them divided in three equal parts; and so on, for any size that you are able to twist with your fingers, which is always better than by any other method of twisting.

Your choice of *Hooks* should be those made of the best-tempered fine steel wire; generally longish in the shank, and strong and rather deepish in the bend; the point fine and strait, and as true as it can be set to be level with the shank, which for fly-making should be tapered off to the end of it, that the fly may be finished the neater; be careful also that the hook has

a good barb.—I have, by many years experience, found these kinds of hooks to be more sure, and better than any crooked hooks whatever; they do not make so large an orifice when you hook a fish, nor are they so liable to break the hold through as the crooked bent ones are; and in trying them for several seasons one against another, I found, that I missed in the rising, or biting at bottom, considerably more fish, and lost more after being hooked with the crooked ones, than with those I have here described, and which of course I now always use. The best of the kind are made at Limerick in Ireland.

Floats for angling are of many kinds, such as swan-quills, goose-quills, Muscovy-duck-quills, and porcupine-quills; the first of which is the best when you use light baits in rivers or deep water, and the others for slow water, or ponds where the water is not very deep; for heavy fishing with worm or minnow, either in rivers or ponds, a cork float is best,

best, and is made by having a sound cork without holes or flaws, bored through with a hot iron, and a quill put into it of a fit proportion, open at each end for the line to run through. Cut the cork of a pyramidal form, and make it smooth with a fine file. Your quill floats must carry shot enough so to sink them as that you can just see the top above water, that you may the better perceive the slightest nibble; and as to your cork floats, let there be sufficient shot to make them stand upright in the water when the shot are off the bottom; by which you may know when you fish on the bottom or not; for when the shot are on the ground, the float will fall on one side, and not stand up.

When you go out a bottom-fishing, &c. you should have with you different kinds of *lines; links; hooks; floats, and spare caps; split shot; shoemaker's wax* in a piece of leather; *silk; a plummet, to fix the depth of the water; red paste; gentles* in a box; *worms of different sorts, and*

ground-bait ;—*a clearing-ring*, to disengage the hook when entangled, by running it up the rod, and gently down the line (by a strong twine long enough for any such purpose) to where the hook is fastened, if at a stump, or other immoveable thing ; but if it be weeds, let it go below the hook ; then pull away at the twine, and the ring will break the weeds, and save your line and hook ; in the other case, if it does not bring away your hook, it will break the line near to it, and prevent it from being strained in any other place ;—*a landing-net*, to land large fish with, some of which are made with joints to fold up for convenience ;—*a disgorging*, to put down the throat of a fish when he has gorged the hook, till you touch it, at the same time pulling the line, it will be freed ;—and a *fish-basket*, to carry your fish in.

The

*The best methods of colouring Gut and Hair
brown.*

Take some alum pounded, boil it well till dissolved ; then add a pound of walnut-tree bark from the branches when the sap is up, or the buds, or green nuts ; boil it an hour, and let it stand, after skimming it, about ten minutes ; then put in the gut or hair for about a minute (stirring it round) or till you like the colour. If you let it continue there too long, it will become too dark, and make the gut or hair rotten ; and I think the lighter it is tinged with this colour the better. You may also make it brownish, by steeping it in salt and ale.

For a blueish water-colour.

Proceed as above ; only add logwood instead of the walnut, still being careful not to colour it too much.

For

For a pale watery green.

Boil about a quarter of a pound of foot in a pint of strong alum-water, with a little juice of walnut-tree leaves, for half an hour, and steep your gut or hair therein when it is nearly cold.

A short hint for angling where the water is brackish, &c.

THERE are to be taken, near to the mouths of rivers when the tide is flowing up, several sorts of fish, such as Whitings, Bafe or Bafs, Coal-fish, the Fry of Cods and Haddocks (which are very nice eating), Flat-fish, Eels, &c.

From *piers*, or a little way out at sea, may be taken larger Whiting, small Cod-fish, Haddock, small Turbot, large Plaice, and others, having a long strong rod and line, the line well leaded, a large hook, and a large cork float.

Bait

Bait for the former with scoured red worms, shrimps, and gentles; for the latter, with one or two large well-scoured worms, a raw muscle, the inside of a small raw crab whipt round the hook with a little white wool, a bit of a Whiting or other fish, &c. fishing near or on the bottom, where the water is not too deep; at other times a little more than mid-water, according to the kind of bait that you use.

Mackarel may be taken, from rocks or other places near the sea, when the tide is in, in parts where they frequent, by baiting with a bit of new scarlet broad-cloth, or a small piece of one of their own species, swimming about mid-water, or lower, if you can for the depth, with a good large cork float. But all these ways of angling are so well known to those who reside near the sea, that I shall not further comment on the subject.

tions, throughout the countries above-mentioned, he finds to be the best collection ever yet discovered; and though but a few, selected from the many different kinds that attend the waters in the course of the season of fly-fishing, yet they are all that are necessary for the different months, weeks, days, and hours throughout the year, for this kind of angling.—An account of their seasons; how to mix and preserve the different colours, and to prepare the feathers for use, with a receipt for dyeing them and the other materials the completest yellow; a list of night-flies, the materials they are made of, and how to make and use each.—Instructions to the young sportsman for preparing his rod, line, and flies, previous to his beginning to angle, and for throwing the line and managing it when in the water, with many interesting observations.—Natural fly-fishing; the best flies for that purpose; how to use them, &c.; with remarks on the winds and weather most favourable to the sportsman; and some refutations of false notions in these matters.

ANGLING
IN
ALL ITS BRANCHES,
&c. &c. &c.

PART THE THIRD.

Some short remarks on the pleasure of fly-fishing, and its superiority over all other branches of the art of angling.—A complete list of artificial flies that will take fish in all waters, whether large or small, in the three kingdoms; consisting of Salmon flies, Salmon-Trout flies, Standard flies, and the best of other kinds that can be used; the materials they are made of, and the method of making each fly in order as they are severally described, by a new method peculiar to the Author, and more effectual than any that has hitherto been practised; which flies, after many years real practice, and strict observations,

OF SALMON FLIES.

Those for the spring season must be made much larger, but not so gaudy as are used in summer; viz. 1st, Let the hook be No. 1. ; the feather for the wings, the darkish brown speckled part of a bittern's wing stripped off from the stem ; the mixture for the body, the reddish brown part of hare's fur, and deep copper-coloured mohair ; the tail forked, with two single strips of the same feather as the wings ; a bittern's hackle over the body for legs ; and the head the same colour as the body.

How to make this fly.

Take three lengths of good strong silk-worm-gut properly twisted together, and having your silk well waxed (which must be of a brown colour), whip it round your gut five or six times about an inch from the end, which will prevent

the shank of the hook from galling it; then take the hook, and put the end of the shank nearly to the top of the silk so whipt, for the gut to be on the inside, and begin to whip the hook to it, but desist when you have gone about half a dozen rounds; and having a proper quantity of feather ready for the wings, take and lay it on the back of the shank, (keeping it as close together and as even as you can,) with the right side next the hook, and the but-end downwards, leaving the other end to be, when turned back again, full as long as the hook; then go on with your silk, and whip it round your feather, hook, and gut six or eight times, or sufficient to make it fast, and with a pair of fine scissors cut away what remains of the but-end of the feather, taking care not to hurt the gut, which must be opened and twisted round the shank of the hook, as you go on with the whipping, which is to be continued till it comes nearly opposite the point of the hook; but you must cut off the ends of the gut before they come quite so low down, if found to be too

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long;

long ; next put on your strips of feather for the fork or whisks at the tail, with the fine points downwards, leaving them both exactly the same length, about an inch and half, and to stand open, and make two laps round with the silk ; then take the hackle (which must be ready prepared by stripping off the downy part at top, and cutting the feather across on each side near to the stem, about two or three tenths of an inch from the point, or by drawing the fibres back to prevent any of them from being bound down by the silk), and whip in the point of it two or three times round, leaving the largest end hanging downwards, and the right side uppermost, and make one lap round between it and the fork, and one below all round the bare hook tight and close to the fork, and cut off the superfluous ends of it if any remain in sight ; then wax your silk afresh, and, having your stuff for the body well mixed and ready, twist it gently round the silk, leaving it fine next the hook, but gradually thickening upwards ; make one lap below the fork, and one or two (as required)

quired) between that and the hackle, and work it gradually upwards till you come close up to the feather for the wings; if any of the fur remains on the silk, after you have thus formed the body, take it off, and wind your silk lightly a little upwards to be out of the way; then take the hackle by the end of the stem, and rib it neatly, lapping it thicker as you go on, till you bring it up to the wings, and there bring it two or three times round as close as possible; and if any of the fibres remain strip them off from the stem, and, unwinding the silk to its proper place, make two or three laps to fasten the hackle, and cut away what remains of the stem; then take the feather for the wings, which has lain back all this time, and turn it downwards towards the tail of the fly, and holding it down tightish with the rest between your finger and thumb, having all the parts of the hackle out of the way, whip it three or four times round with the silk just over the feather very tight, and then two laps close above it; wax the silk again, and take a small

bit of the stuff (the same as used for the body), and twist it round the silk ; whip this two or three times round up to the end of the shank, bringing the silk neatly back again, so as to fasten by noosing it about three times, between the head and the wings ; and here the operation finishes with completing the head of the fly, without so much as one fastening or tying throughout the whole, except at the last ; but all is done by continually whipping and putting in your materials, as above directed, which renders the flies more neat and complete than is practicable by any other method.

N. B. It must be observed, that though the fly be thus completely made, it remains to put it in natural order, by first holding back the wings, then with a needle stroking the hackle for the legs upwards, and placing them in good order ; and if any irregular part remains in the body, pick it properly loose, and draw it away with a pair of tweezers, or cut it off with your scissors, according as you find it will leave the appearance most natural ; if any superfluous

perfluous hairs are seen among the legs, take them away also, letting the fork at the tail be as before observed, and placing the wings aright to stand sloping towards the tail. The head being then nicely completed, the fly will be most natural and beautiful.

The wings of all such large flies are best not divided, but to stand together on the back, as above described.

A second sort of Fly.

Let the hook be the same size as the former; the wings, the mottled feather of a peacock's wing, intermixed with that of any fine plain dusky red; the mixture for the body, the light brown hair or fur of a bear next the skin, sable fur, and gold-colour mohair, gold twist, a large black cock's hackle, and a red one a little larger; and for the head, a bit of deep red mohair.

How to make this fly.

Proceed in the same manner as before described, until you come opposite the

point of the hook ; then lay in the ends of your hackles and twist them together, the red one undermost, and the twist atop ; and after whipping them there, make one lap below them ; wax your silk afresh, twist on the dubbing for the body, and go on as in the former case ; next take the twist, and rib it up to the wings, each lap about two tenths of an inch from the other ; then take the black hackle, and work that upwards between the laps of the twist, rather lower than the middle of each space, and bring it twice round, close together, at the top of the body, and bringing on the red hackle in the same manner, work it very neatly just above each lap of the black one, and finish it the same way, contriving to leave the twist just to shew itself between the hackles ; and then complete your fly as before directed.

N. B. This fly may be forked, if thought proper, with two or three hairs of a squirrel.

A third sort of fly.

For this fly also the hook must be No. 1 ; the wings, the blue feather of a hern, intermixed

intermixed with the spotted redish part of that of a mallard; for the body, lead-coloured mohair, small gold twist, a large white hackle dyed a deepish blue; a bit of the same feather as the wings for the tail; the head the same colour as the body; and your filk a lead colour.

How to make this fly.

Proceed in the same way as before, whipping in the point of the hackle a little before you come opposite the point of the hook, and go on a few laps; then taking the twist, and two strips of each feather the same as the wings, whip in the ends of the twist and feathers together, letting the latter be topmost with the points downwards, and about a quarter of an inch in length, and cut away the other end of the feather; then twist on the mohair thin, work it up neat, and, having fastened it as before directed, take the twist, make one lap with it close below the feather for the tail, (that it may stand in

an oblique form together, and the points even,) then give one just above it, rib it neatly up also, and fasten that; next work the hackle between each lap of the twist, and go on as with the other two till you finish.

These three flies are sufficient to begin the season with, though indeed they will kill fish at all times of it; but as the spring and warm weather advances, they must be dressed more gaudy in proportion; and in the height of summer, particularly if the water be fine, must be adorned with the most glittering plumage (gold, silver, and silks) that can be procured; as the summer declines, reduce the gaudiness of your flies gradually in the same proportion, till you come down to these three again, which continue till the Salmon fishing goes out of season.

It must be observed, that the Salmon hooks for the summer fishing should be about No. 3, and strong made; and if the shanks are too long, there must be some taken off, according to the length
and

and size of the fly you intend to make; and that your feathers must be intermixed with different gaudy shades, such as golden and other pheasant's, parrot's, peacock's, and in short, of all other birds that are fit for the purpose, either foreign or domestic; and others dyed, including hackles of various colours, as well as your mohair and other stuff for the body; but to render these flies more light in clear water, let the body be made quite thin, of silk of a suitable colour (for it must always be suited to the fly you make); a bit of a gaudy feather at the tail, with narrow gold or silver plating according as it matches; instead of twist; and the hackle for legs, the blue spotted feather from a jay's wing (the other part of it being stript away) worked up, only from about half way below the wings, but pretty thick under them. I have here mentioned this hackle in particular, because it is very excellent; but your hackles must always be suited to the shades of your other materials. Further observe, that before you begin the head of the fly, you should take two gaudy
strips

strips of feather, and lay one on each side the shoulders, to stand something longer than the other feathers, and whip them there, then finish the head; and the fly, when thus placed in proper order, will appear very beautiful. For the better convenience of making these large flies, you should be provided with a very small vice, for the purpose of holding the hook, that you may have both hands at liberty to put in your materials, which will enable you to dress the flies more neatly as well as more perfectly.

The same sort of flies are used for Salmon-trout, and other fish of the Salmon kind, only smaller, the hooks being No. 4 or 5; though they will often take the common Trout flies.

OF FLIES FOR TROUT, GRAYLING AND OTHER FISH.

The following eight I shall set down as standards, because the seven first will kill fish at all times of the season; and the eighth from about the middle of April.

1st, *The*

1st, *The Black Hackle.*

The wings are the light part of a feather from a Stare or Starling's wing, stript off from the stem ; the body, black dog's fur, and a black cock's hackle over it ; and is made thus.—Take a good even silk-worm-gut, a hook No. 5, or a single C. (so called in Ireland) and proceed as with the Salmon flies, always observing to keep the feathers close together, even, and level at the points, laying it on (as before observed) with the wrong side uppermost ; when you come to use the fur for the body, lay it on very thin and neat, and work the hackle (which must be suited in size) neatly over it, till it comes up to the wings ; there bring it twice or thrice round ; but if there is too much, strip it off, whip the stem fast, and, cutting away the end that remains, take a needle or pin, and divide the feathers for the wings into two parts as equal as possible, and bring back that part nearest you by turning it downwards, and holding it a little tight and smooth ;

smooth; give it two or three laps just over the feather, as near the top of it as you can, so that the silk may not slip off, keeping all the parts of the hackle downwards, out of the way; then take the other part, bring it down in the same manner, and, holding all between your thumb and finger, taking care that no part of the wings get down too low on the sides, whip them both over together, the same as the first, very tight, give two laps above them, and fasten by noosing your silk three times, which finishes the shoulders and head of this sized fly, without any other addition; after this is done, take your needle and put the hackle and all in order, with the wings sloping towards the tail. This way of parting the wings renders them more natural than any can be effected in any other way; for those that are made to stand upright, or nearly so, have a bad tendency, inasmuch as they affright instead of enticing the fish, by the unnatural streak they make along the water when moved, which they should never do; and

as

as you cannot keep the artificial flies to sit on the surface of the water as some of the natural ones do, it is supposed that they are taken for those that are driven under by the current, which makes the fish more eager in taking them for fear they should recover and get away; and I have often remarked, that when there have been hundreds of flies upon the water, I have not perceived any fish rise at them, yet they have taken mine very freely.

N. B. This fly must always be the end fly, or stretcher, as it is termed by most fly-fishers.

2d, *The Wren's tail*

Has no wings; the body, sable fur, a little mohair of a gold colour, with a feather from the tail of a Wren; and is thus made.—Let the hook be No. 5 or 6, with a short shank, and whipt to the gut till your silk be opposite the point of the hook; then take the feather, (being cut across near the point a little way on each side

side near the stem,) and whip in the point of it, letting the rest hang downwards, with the right side of the feather uppermost, and giving one or two laps with the silk below it; twist on your stuff for the body very thin, and, making one lap below the feather, work it up very neatly, leaving it a little thicker at the shoulders; then taking the feather, bring it up neatly, (as a hackle,) lapping it very thin at the beginning, but gradually thicker as you go on, till you get up to the top of the body, and there bring it two or three times round close together; then whip it fast, cut away the end of the stem, and fasten off as before, as near as you well can to the end of the shank; after which, put the fly in order, by opening the fibres, &c. with your needle.

N. B. If at any time one of these feathers is not found sufficient, you must use two of them, lapping in the point of one as you go down about the middle of the hook, and the other as before, and work it up properly a little past the first; then take that, and, binding the other neatly

with it, finish your fly.—You may sometimes use this fly with the fibres of the feather cut short from the tail upwards, to look a little rough, till you come to the part where it stands thick at top, there cut just the ends only, and let it stand all round alike :—both these ways are very good ones. *This is to be used either as stretcher or dropper.*

3d, *The Grouse Hackle.*

This has no wings ; the mixture for the body is dark olive, dusky yellow, and a little gold-coloured mohair ; a fine mottled Grouse's feather of a reddish brown, running a little dusky towards the but-end of the stem, with the downy part (if any) taken away as beforementioned of other hackle feathers. It is made in the same way as the Wren's tail, and the same sized hook, only the point of the feather is fastened about the middle of the length of the body, as you go down in whipping on the hook ; but in bringing forward the body, lap it thin and neat, though

though a little roughish, and, passing the hackle, contrive to let it be a little more so to the top ; then taking the hackle by the end of the stem, lap it pretty close, but thicker where you end, and so finish as before, taking care that the fibres of the feather you choose be not too long, but so that they would only reach about half the length of the fly, or a little more, if laid down : to put it in good order, open every fibre with your needle, and let it stand well.—*This is either stretcher or dropper.*

4th, *The smoky-dun Hackle*

Has no wings ; the body, a little lead-coloured mohair or silk, with a smoky-dun cock's hackle. It is made by fastening the hackle at the bottom, where you finish, whipping on the hook No. 5 ; then with a bit of the mohair make the body very thin all the way up, or with your silk only, being of a lead-colour, especially in the hot months ; and finish by bringing the hackle, well suited to the size of your hook, very neatly over it, leaving it thicker at top. What remains to be done, has been

been several times before explained.—*It may be fished with either as stretcher or dropper.*

No. 5. *The Brown Rail.*

The wings are of a feather from a partridge's tail (not the red); the body fable fur and gold-coloured mohair. In making it, proceed in the same way as with the *black hackle*; only, as there is *no hackle*, make the body thin and neat, till you come near the wings, and there lap it pretty thick; then having finished the wings, and fastened off, pick out a little of the fur and mohair for the feet, and cut it to be as natural as may be, not to be too long, and letting the other part of the body be without any superfluous hairs from the mohair or fur; then placing the wings aright, the fly is complete.—In summer, wing with a feather from the wing of a rail. *This fly may be either stretcher or dropper.*

No. 6.

No. 6. & 7. *The Hare's Ear.*

The wings are the light part of a feather from a stare's wing ; the body, the dark fur from a hare's ear ; and it is made in the same manner as the *brown rail*.

N. B. Where the streams are deep, the same body winged with a feather from a rail's wing, and a red hackle, is very killing, particularly in the summer season. *These are used chiefly as drop flies.*

No. 8. *The Red Hackle, from about the middle of April.*

The wings, stare ; body, light red mohair and a red cock's hackle ; and it is made exactly in the same way as the *black hackle*.—*Always a dropper.*

The rest, to complete this collection, are the following.

No. 1. *The Dark Claret.*

This fly has four wings ; the under ones are the light feather from a stare's wing, and

and the upper ones that of a partridge's tail; the body, any dark claret proper for fly-making, and the darkish fur of a hare's ear. In making it, (having, prior to putting on the wings, laid ready a sufficient quantity of the partridge's tail, according to judgment, with that of the stare's atop of it, the points a very little shorter than the other,) put on the wings as before directed, keeping them close and smooth, with the stare's feather uppermost; then go on, and finish in the very same way as the *brown rail*, taking care to divide both feathers equally, so that the stare's may be undermost in each wing when turned back and finished. It is in season from the latter end of February to about a week in April, and is the first fly that begins the diversion of fly-fishing.—Some call it a red fly, and make it so; but they are mistaken:—*it is best as a dropper, when you fish with two or more flies.*

No. 2. *The Dark or Blow Fox.*

The wings are stare, as before; the body, fox's fur from the shoulder next the

the skin, some from the black tail of a Rabbit, with a little pale straw-coloured mohair; the fork at the tail, the ends of two fine hairs that grow next the skin of a monkey, where the outer ends are yellowish; take them out so gently as not to break them, and you will find them to be nearly of a fine ash-colour; nothing can match this fly for the purpose intended. In making it, you proceed as with the *dark claret*, till you come low enough to put in the fork; then, making one lap below it, cut away the yellow ends, bring up the body, and finish the same way; picking out a little of the stuff for the legs, and leaving them as natural as possible, not to be too long; and if the fork be left awkwardly long, cut it according to judgment, and let it stand in a proper form and open.—It is in season from the latter end of February till about the middle of April, either as *stretcher* or *dropper*.

N. B. These two flies come in again about the latter end of September, and continue to the end of the season.

No. 3. *The Dun Fox.*

The wings and fork the same as for that last described; the body, the fur of a fox between the throat and shoulder next the skin, and brash-coloured mohair. It is made in the same manner as the *dark fox*.—In season all March, and again in September, either as stretcher or dropper.

No. 4. *The Ash Fox.*

The wings and fork the same as the above foxes; the body, fox's fur from the throat next the skin, and pale straw-coloured mohair.—In season all April, either as dropper or stretcher.

No. 5. *The Light Fox.*

The wings and fork the same as the other foxes; the body, light camel's hair, and the lightest straw-coloured mohair that

can be got. This is made in the same way as the three last above described. It comes in season the latter end of April, continues all summer, and is used as stretcher or dropper.

N. B. Though I have described these flies in rotation as four different ones, yet I am persuaded that they are one and the same fly; only, as the spring and summer advances, it changes its colour accordingly, to the exactness that I have stated; though some sooner than others, according as they come sooner or later in succession to the perfection of a fly.

No. 6. The Brown Fly, Dun Drake, or Brown Caughlan.

The wings, partridge's tail; the body, light brown bear's fur, high coloured yellow mohair, hare's fur from the face, forked with two strips of a dark mallard's feather, and a partridge's hackle. The method of making this fly is as before described; only the small fine partridge's feather, for the hackle or legs, must be lapped

lapped two or three times round, and no more, under the but of the wings. It is in season from about the middle of March to the end of April.

The dark claret, the dark fox, and this fly, are sometimes on the water at the same time ; but *the claret* is the first in the day ; the fox next ; and the brown one follows.—The clarets and the foxes are most plentiful in cold dark days, and the browns in warm and gloomy ones ; it should indeed always be observed, that the fly that comes first, according to the month, is generally the first to be used in the day : you may see the others come down the water in order, according to their time, and observe the fish leave off taking the former ones for the sake of the latter ; and thus they continue their succession through their several days, weeks, and months.

No. 7. *The Green-Tail Fly.*

The wings are from a feather out of a pheasant's wing, which has a fine shade

that exhibits the very resemblance of those of the real fly ; the body, the black part of hare's fur, a brown strip of a feather from a peacock's tail, and a very small bit of a green one with a grizzle cock's hackle ; and it is only made differently from the foregoing ones, by whipping in the ends of the peacock's feathers both together at bottom, lapping the green one only once round below the silk ; then, sloping it a little upwards, fasten it, and cut away what remains, leaving it to be about as large as the head of a largish pin ; twist the fur on your silk, lap it a little thinnish up to the feather for the wings, and there fasten in the point of the hackle ; then, with the brown peacock that was fastened below, rib it all the way up, and fasten that ; now let the hackle be lapped twice round, fastened, and what remains cut away ; then finish the wings, (taking care that no other part be tied in with them,) and fasten off.

This fly is but of short duration, being only in season from about the middle of April to near the end of the month. They
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are plentiful in warm days ; but in cold ones there are very few, if any, on the water ; in which case the former flies should be used.

No. 8. *The Spider-Fly*

Has no wings ; the body, lead-coloured silk, a fine small black cock's hackle, and a feather of a woodcock from under the but-end of his wings. It is made thus : when you have got about a quarter of the way down in whipping on the hook, put in the points of the woodcock's feather, (having it properly prepared as before directed,) and fasten it with the silk, going on till you come nearly opposite the point of the hook ; there, with your silk (which must be of a lead-colour, and not waxed) begin to form the body, leaving it pretty thick at the tail, and to go thinner upwards, like the ant : when you come near to where the feather is fastened, put in the point of the black hackle, and, lapping up your silk a little to be out of the way, take

take the black hackle, and lap it two or three times round close to where the other feather is tied in; if any more fibres remain, strip them off and fasten with two laps, and, passing the first feather put in, lap your silk very thin up to nearly the top of the shank, and wax it; then taking the woodcock's feather, work it round pretty thick up to where you fasten off, and so finish.—This fly is in season from about a week in April till a week or ten days in May, and is best as a dropper. They appear most in bright and warm days, when you may see them come out of beds of sand by the water; but they disappear when the days become cold and stormy.

No. 9. *The Yellow Cadew, or May-Fly.*

The wings are a grey spotted feather of a mallard dyed yellow; the body, a little fine ram's wool dyed the same colour as the wings, with a dark bittern's hackle for the legs; two hairs from a fitch's tail for the fork; and a bit of a brown feather
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of a peacock's tail for the head. This is a large fly, and should be made on a hook No. 4. or a large No. 5. and requires no further instructions for making it than what have been before given; only be careful to rib it neatly with the hackle, and to finish the head in the same way as that of the Salmon-fly. It is in season from about the middle of May to the middle of June, and always a stretcher.

N. B. The best dye for all yellow materials for artificial flies, is the bark from the branches of a crab-tree, taken in the spring when the sap is up. Before you use it, put any quantity that you want into a vessel, just cover it with a mixture of one half hard water and the other half urine, and let it stand twenty-four hours; then put it into a proper vessel, with some alum, according to judgment, so that it simmer over a slow fire about two hours; stir up all well together, and take out the bark; then put in your feathers and other materials, and stir them round till the liquor just begins to boil; then take them out, and instantly throw them into some hard

hard cold water with a little alum dissolved in it, wash them out, and dry them for use.—You may make the shades of this colour vary, by dissolving more or less of the bark, according to judgment, or letting the materials be in the dye a longer or shorter time.

No. 10. *The Grey Drake, or Grey Coughlan.*

The males and females of these flies differ much; the wings of the former are the grey spotted part of a feather of a mallard mixed with that of a widgeon; the body, light camel's hair, and a dark bittern's hackle; the fork has three fangs, and are the hairs from a fitch's tail; and the head, a bit of a brown peacock's feather from the tail.—The wings of the latter are the grey mallard only; the body, part of a fine oaten straw, and a cuckoo-cock's hackle.—These are large flies, and are best made on a large No. 5. hook. In making the male, let the three hairs for the fork be near an inch and half

half long, and to stand open ; after carrying up the camel's hair, beginning with it rougher at bottom, and leaving it smoother towards the wings, take the bittern's hackle, and rib it very thick towards the tail, leaving the body clear towards the wings. The fork of the female is the same as that of the male ; the straw must be whipt in at bottom, lapped neatly up to the wings, and ribbed with the cuckoo hackle, in the same way as that of the male fly ; so finish both, as directed in the foregoing ones. They are in season with the yellow fly, only not so forward by a few days : the yellows are on the water first in the day ; but when the grey ones appear, the fish leave the former and take the latter : while these two sorts of flies continue, they are excellent indeed ; for they may be termed the fishes' delight ; but I look upon the female of the greys to be much more killing than the male, which is to be accounted for by their frequenting the water in much greater numbers for the purpose of casting their seed therein, and that these eggs or seed may render them
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more tasteful to the fish, particularly before they drop them.

After these flies disappear the Trouts become very shy for some time ; so that most *anglers* are at a loss what flies to use after the greys ; but I can inform them, that the *Wren's Tail and Grouse Hackle*, two of the standards before mentioned, are flies which the fish will not refuse even when the former ones are on the water in the height of their perfection ; neither will they reject the other standards.

No. 11. *The Grizzle Hackle.*

This fly follows the grey ones, and is the best, except the standards, during its season ; it has no wings ; the body, the brown part of a feather from the tail of a peacock, dark red silk, and a dark grizzled cock's hackle. It is made in this manner : in whipping on the hook, lap in the point of the hackle when you have gone about half way ; and at bottom do the same by the peacock's feather and the silk, (which must not be too fine nor waxed,)

waxed,) and lap the other silk very thin back again ready to fasten; then take the feather, and, making one lap close to another, pass the hackle, carry it up near to the end of the shank, and fasten it; then with the silk rib it at a small equal distance as high up as the other, and fasten that; lastly, begin to lap the hackle, and as you go up lap it thicker, and three times round at top, and so finish. It is in season from the beginning to the end of June, and may be fished with as a dropper with either of the two standards.

No. 12. *The Golden Sooty.*

The wings stare; the body any very dark brown resembling a bright foot colour, mixed with a little gold-coloured mohair. This fly is made without a hackle in the same way as the *brown rail*, and is in season from the beginning of June to the middle of September, either as stretcher or dropper.

No. 13.

No. 13. *The Blue Blow.*

This is a very small fly, and appears in the water like a small lump of foot ; it must therefore be made on a small hook with a short shank : the wings are the feather of a tom-tit's tail ; the body, the fur of a mole, with pale copper-coloured mohair, and forked with monkey, the same as the fox flies. It is made the same way too, only so very small, and is in season the whole summer, but always a dropper. They are taken very freely at times, particularly when the water is fine and low.

No. 14. *The Green Caterpillar*

Has no wings ; the body, one (or more if necessary) of the green branches from the stem of the feather of a peacock's tail, gold or silver narrow plating ; and a red or black cock's hackle for legs. It is made by whipping the ends of all three together at bottom, a little lower down the hook than common : just as you have
finished

finished whipping it on, and lapping the silk neatly back again to the top, leave it there to fasten with; and, taking the plating, lap it neatly close together all the way up; then do the same with the peacock's feather, only be sure to let the plating appear between every lap of it, and to leave the body the same thickness from tail to head; lastly, lap the hackle thinly over all, but very regularly, to the top, and fasten off.

N. B. When you plate with gold, use a red hackle; when with silver, a black one; or you may sometimes reverse them, by way of experiment.

No. 15. *The Black Caterpillar.*

This is made in the same manner as the Green, only the brown part of the peacock's feather instead of the green, and a black hackle. For both these Caterpillars the fibres of the hackle should be short. They are in season in the hot months, and are chiefly used as droppers.

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They may also be made plain, without any plating.

No. 16. *The Lechaber.*

This is a fly that is not noticed in England, and but by few in Scotland and Ireland, though it will kill fish exceedingly well, in its season, on all waters in the three kingdoms. It is made of a mottled grouse's feather, either of a bright shining brown, a reddish brown, or of a dusky colour, (for it differs exactly to these shades), and with part of the same silk that you use to whip on the hook, which must be either orange or yellow, as best suits the feather which is used. Before you begin to make this fly choose a feather with the fibres a trifle longer than the hook you intend to use in making it; then strip away the short or downy part at top, and draw back the fibres near the point, leaving just enough for lapping in; then taking your silk, which must be waxed but a little way, just sufficient

to fasten on your hook, whip it down to nearly opposite the point, and there lap in the point of the feather, with the right side outwards, and the other end towards the shank of the hook; then with the silk, without any wax on it, make from three or four to six laps round below the feather, according to the size of the fly, so that it may show; and, bringing the silk neatly back again, continue lapping it so (passing the feather) to the top, and there wax it ready for fastening; then taking the feather by the end of the stem, (keeping the inside of it always next the hook,) begin to lap it round pretty close, but thicker at top, keeping the fibres of one lap from being entangled or tied down by another; then fasten down the stem close to the feather, by lapping it round with the silk two or three times; cut away what remains of it, and then fasten and cut off the silk.

It now remains to put the fly in natural order; which is done, by taking all the feather that will stand properly together

on the back of the hook for wings, and the rest stroked down with your thumb and finger to be underneath, and cut pretty short for the legs, but in a sloping form, to be longest at top, and short towards the tail, letting the wings stand sloping downwards.

It is to be fished for in the months of July, August, and part of September, either as stretcher or dropper.

N. B. When you come to put or stroke the feather on the back to stand close and sloping as before observed, if you perceive any superfluous fibre among it, or that does not properly belong to that part, pick it out; and if found proper to add to the legs, cut it short accordingly; otherwise cut it off.

No. 27. *The Green Bank Fly.*

The wings stare; the body, a kind of mellow green mohair, with a little yellow, and a fine pale red hackle. In making it, lap in the point of the hackle
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at bottom, having stripped off the whole of one side of the fibres; then twist the stuff for the body thin and even on the silk, which should be green, and carry it up very neatly to the feather for the wings, for it is a very delicate fly; then with the hackle rib it thinly all the way up, and, dividing the wings, finish as often before directed. It is chiefly to be fished with in the evenings of warm days, either as stretcher or dropper.

No. 18. *The Cream Camel.*

The wings, the yellow part of a feather of an owl, or a red thrush's wing; the body, deepish cream-coloured camel's hair, or fine Spanish wool, and gold-coloured mohair; the body must be made neat, and the stuff picked out for legs as for some of the former flies. It is to be fished with early in warm summer mornings, and in the evenings, as the *Green Bank-Fly*.

No. 19. *The Red Spinner.*

The wings are of the grayish feather of a drake, tinged with a kind of reddish yellow, which is not to be found on every drake ; the body, gold twist, with a red hackle over it. In making it, whip in the ends of the twist and hackle together at bottom, and lap your silk back again up to the feather for the wings ; then take the twist, and lap it close all the way up as high as the silk, and fasten it, cutting away what remains of the twist ; with the hackle rib it neatly till you come up to the wings, and there lap it twice or thrice round ; then fasten, and, dividing the wings, finish the fly. This is chiefly an evening fly, in the month of July only ; and is best used as a dropper.

It is taken very eagerly by the *Chub*.

No. 20. *The Ant Flies.*

Of these there are four sorts ; viz. the large red, and the large black, and a smaller

smaller sort of the same kinds and colours.

The wings of the *red* are the feather of a stare's wing; the body, mohair of an amber colour with a red cock's hackle. In making it, let the body be large at the tail, and small towards the wings, as natural as possible to the resemblance of the *ant*, (for all these, in their seasons, from the real *ants* become flies, having wings, and fly about, frequenting the waters); with a small fibred hackle twice round close to the wings; and so finish as in former cases.

The *black* ones have wings of the lightest sky-blue feather that can be procured, with the strongest gloss; the body, black ostrich feather, with a black hackle twice round to suit in size, the same as the former; and it is finished exactly in the same way. These flies are but of short duration; the large ones being in season only from about the middle of June to the twenty-fifth; the small ones from the beginning to about the middle of August.

They are afternoon flies, being chiefly on the water from a little after twelve till four, and sometimes later; and are best fished with as droppers, with one of the standards as a stretcher.

No. 21. *The Pale Blue Fly.*

The wings, the lightest blue feather of a sea-swallow; the body, the bluest part of the fur of a fox, mixed with a very little yellow mohair, straw-coloured silk, and a fine pale-blue hackle. It is made upon a hook about No. 6. or 7.; and in making it, lap in the ends of a piece of the silk and hackle together; then twisting the fur round the waxed silk, as usual, work it nearly up to the feather fastened in above for the wings, and give a lap or two; with the silk below, which should be a little open, without wax, rib it at a middling distance from one another all the way up, and fasten that the same way; then bringing the hackle neatly up over all,

all, fasten it, divide the wings, and finish.

N. B. This is a good killing fly, particularly for Graylings, which at this time of the year are very sportive, and in great perfection. This fly is in season from the beginning of August till near Michaelmas, either as a stretcher or dropper.

No. 22. *The Hare's Ear and Yellow.*

The wings flare; the body, the dark fur of a hare's ear, mixed with a little yellow mohair. It is made in the same form and size as that before described in the former part of No. 6. in the Standards, and is in season in September; mostly used as a dropper.

These two last-mentioned flies, with the *Dun Fox*, (which, as before observed, comes in again in this month) continue till the *Dark Fox* and *Dark Claret* come in again, which is in October; only observe, from the beginning of the month to about the tenth, to let the mohair be
green

green for the Dark Fox, instead of straw-colour; and after that time as before, to the end of the season, which in some countries continues till some time in November, if the weather be moderate and without frost.

It should be always remembered to vary the size of the hook, according as you intend to make your fly either large or small, or according to the kind of fish you intend to angle for. Before you begin to make any fly, be sure to have the feather for the wings (if a winged fly) ready stripped from the stem, just a proper quantity, according to judgment (for too much is as bad as too little); a proportionate quantity of your stuff for the body well mixed (for you should keep your colours by you properly mixed to a right shade, never using the whole of any one mixture till you mix again; by which means, when you have once obtained the right shades in all your different mixtures, you may always preserve them); the hackles prepared, as often before observ-
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ed ; and all materials put ready at hand, with your silk to match in colour, and waxed ; and when you come to make a fly, let the wings be proportioned in length to its size ; and also the fibres of the hackle.

This I have thought proper here to repeat, just to remind the young fly-maker how he ought to proceed ; and I shall now treat of the night-flies.

OF NIGHT FLIES, OR LARGE MOTHS.

As many a sportsman is so passionately fond of angling as to be induced to pursue the sport by night, in which he will be often more successful than in the day-time, I will here give him an account of the best flies for the purpose ; which are as follow :

1st. *The Mealy White.*

The wings, the soft mealy feathers of a white owl ; the body, the white soft fur of a rabbit, with a soft downy white hackle. In making it, take the feathers (for there must be two, both alike, which must be broadish at the points, and large enough

enough to form a pair of good full wings), and lap them in, as you would the stript feather for the wings of other flies, and at the bottom fasten in the point of the hackle; then, twisting the fur on the silk, make the body as thick as a very large straw, till you come near the wings; there lap it thicker, and, bringing up the hackle thinly, lap it twice or thrice round at top, and divide the wings so, that you have the whole of each feather for the separate wings; and finish as you would other flies that have their wings divided. Observe, that the hooks should be about No. 4. It is to be fished with always as a stretcher, without any other fly on the line.

2d. *The Mealy Cream.*

There are feathers on a yellow owl of a deep cream-colour; of these make the wings; the body, of soft fur of the same colour, and a very pale yellow hackle. It is made on the same-sized hook, and finished and fished with the same way as the former.

3d. *The*

3d. *The Mealy Brown.*

The wings are the soft brown feathers of an owl; the body, the fine lightish brown fur of a hare or rabbit, which is made long, about the same thickness as the other two, with a light brown bittern's hackle twice round under the wings; and is finished and fished with the same way; but the two first I consider as the best. They are most killing in warm gloomy nights after hot days; and when you angle this way, let out your line to be but a little longer than the rod. You may hear the fish rise as in the day-time, and feel them when they take.

It now remains to give some instructions to the young sportsman for preparing his rod, line, and flies, previous to his beginning to angle; and also for throwing the line and managing it when in the water;

water ; which will be attended with some few observations.

The rods for fly-fishing have been described before, in treating of the Salmon and Trout. When you have fixed your rod properly, with your winch or reel thereon, and brought your line from it through the rings of the rod, loop on to it at the strongest end your foot-length, which should be about three yards and a half long, made of good strong single silk-worm-gut, well tied and the knots neatly whipped, running a *very little* finer towards the bottom end, at which place there must be a neat whipped loop also ; then take your first fly or stretcher, which should be made to one or two (if long, two or three) lengths of good level gut ; if short, full as fine, or a little finer than the bottom link of your foot length, tied and whipped neatly together, and looped nicely at the end also ; loop this to the end of your gut-length ; and then your drop-fly, just above a knot, where it is whipped, about a yard or more from

from the end-fly, to hang from the line not more than two or three inches. If you choose to fish with more, keep them all about the same distance; and observe, if your droppers be larger, or even as large as your stretcher, you will not be able to throw a good line; but a beginner should never use more than one fly.

When thus prepared, let out the line about half as long again as the rod; and holding that properly in one hand, and the line near to the fly in the other, give your rod a motion from right to left, and as you move the rod backwards in order to throw out the line, let go the line out of your hand at the same time, and try several throws at this length; then let out more line, and try that, still using more and more, till you can manage any length needful; but about nine yards is quite sufficient for any one to practise with; and observe, that in raising your line in order to throw it in again, you should wave your rod a little round your head, and not bring it directly backwards; nor
must

must you return the line too soon, or until it has gone its length behind you, or you will certainly whip off your end-fly. There is a great art in making your line fall light on the water, and showing the flies well to the fish. The best way I can direct is, that when you have thrown out your line, contriving to let it and the flies fall as lightly and naturally as possible, you should raise your rod gently and by degrees (sometimes with a kind of gentle trembling hand as it were), which will bring the flies on a little towards you, still letting them go down with the stream; but never draw them against it, for it is unnatural; and before the line comes too near you, throw out again. When you see a fish rise at the natural fly, throw out about a yard above him, but not directly over his head, and let your fly or flies move gently towards him, which will shew it him in more natural form, and will tempt him the more to take it. Experience and observation alone, however, can make an angler a complete

adept in the art, so as to be able to throw his fly behind bushes and trees, into holes, under banks and other places, as mentioned of the Trout's haunts, and where in general the best fish are found.

In the summer time, even when the water is quite low and fine, no wind stirring, the sun shining in its greatest lustre, and in the hottest part of the day, you may take fish (though very few anglers will believe it) with a small *Wren's Tail*, *Grouse*, *Smoky Dun*, and *Black Hackles*; fishing straight down the water by the sides of streams and of banks, keeping out of sight, with as long a line as you can throw nicely, having your foot-length very fine. You may often see them with their fins and even their backs above water, at which time they will snap eagerly at these flies; and though, upon hooking one of them, the rest will fly off, yet after taking it, if you will but retire for a little while, you may be at them again, for they will soon be composed and return; and thus for two or three

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times. When you have quite tired them out in one place, however, you must endeavour to find out another.

At the time of year when the fish retire to the deeps, they will often take very well in still water, where there is a proper bottom for them, provided the wind blows strong to make a good curl, but particularly if it blows across the water, fishing with the wind in your favour (that is, on your back), not only for the advantage of throwing the line, but because the fish will be on that side waiting for flies that are blown from the grass and bank into the water. Throw near to the bank next you, keeping out of sight.

When you go out a fly-fishing, you should not forget to have with you a little of all your different materials for fly-making; for the fishes are sometimes so whimsical, that you may see them take insignificant flies freely, which at other times they would not look at. When this is the case, catch one of such flies, and

try how far art can imitate nature, by making one as nearly similar as you can. You should also be equipped with your fish-basket and landing-net.

OF NATURAL FLY-FISHING.

THIS way of angling is chiefly adapted to warm weather, when the water is low and clear; and is best in small rivers or brooks, where you can keep more out of sight than you can near large waters, that are not so much sheltered. You must have a long rod, as before described for artificial-fly fishing; your line fine for nearly the whole length of it, with a fine short-shanked hook, in size proportioned to your baits, the principal of which are as follow:

1st, *The Blue-Bottle, and large House-Fly.*

When you bait with the former of these, put the hook in a little below the
 U 2 head,

head, and let the point and barb come out about the middle of the body, or nearly, so that it may stand properly on the back of the hook. When you use the latter, put two of them on the same way, only carry the first nearly up to the top of the shank, and let the head of the other lie about the middle of the former, by its side. The method of procuring these flies must be left to your own judgment.

2d, *The Wood-Fly.*

Of these there are two sorts, the one a darkish gray, and the other black; but the gray ones are the best. Bait your hook as before directed, with either one or two of these flies; which are to be found in woods, parks, groves, narrow lanes, &c. and are to be procured by carrying out a piece of fresh lights or liver, and laying it down in any little open place between trees and bushes where you find there are any of these flies. Being provided with a large handful of long fern,

fern, when there are a sufficient number collected about the lights, strike them with it smartly several times, which will stun them; then take them up quickly before they recover, and put them into a horn with a wooden bottom, some small holes bored in it nearly from one end to the other (to give them air), and a cork to fit the upper end, which should be much smaller than the lower end. This is the best thing you can have for keeping all kinds of natural flies in, that you may have occasion to use; for by easing the cork just so much as to let the head of the fly be seen, you may take them out one at a time without losing any, whereas if kept in a box you run a chance every time you open it of letting out the greatest part of those that are able to get off.

3d, *The Stone Fly.*

This is a large tough bait, and is to be found under and about stones in small stony brooks, and sometimes among gravel by the sides of large waters. Your

hook must be large, and the bait drawn upon the shank ; and it is to be used very early in the morning and late in the evening.

4th, *The Grasshopper.*

This is a fine and tender bait to fish with. In baiting with it, some take off the legs, but I never found it answer so well as with them on, when put properly to stand on the back of the hook. They are to be found in most *grafs-fields*, but I think more plentifully in a kind of old short mossy *grafs*, where you may often catch numbers according to your own skill and perseverance.

5th, *The Beetle.*

Of these there are two sorts ; one of a reddish copper colour, the other black ; both are excellent baits for large *Trouts* and other *fishes*, but the *former* is by far the best. They have two pair of wings each,

each, the uppermost of a hard husky nature, the under ones soft and transparent, of a bluish colour; and, when extended, much longer than the hard ones. There are also different sizes of beetles; those found under horse or cow-dung in the fields about three or four days after it is dropped, are the largest; but those found in old stone-fenced and old potatoe-grounds, are the best, though not so large as the others. When you come to bait the hook, clip off the hard wings, and hang the fly with his feet towards the water.

These which I have described are the best natural flies that can be found, though you may sometimes kill fish with any largish fly that you may chance to see about the water, or such as you see the fish take.

When you come to fish this way, let your line be shorter than for artificial-fly fishing. Where there are streams, before you approach them too near, begin to fish just over the bank, or near to the shore; and, advancing gradually till you

can fish the stream, begin at the top, and fish it regularly down, throwing gently across it (taking care not to whip off or damage your bait), and letting the bait go gently down the stream, sometimes just under the surface of the water, and at others to be carried about the middle, particularly in deep streams. In small rivers, which in the summer time are generally pretty full of weeds, fish in places where you can get your line properly in between them, where the current is strongest, and also over hollow banks, under and about trees and bushes, and all other of the *fishes haunts* as before noticed, and in all waters, taking care to let out or shorten your line as occasion requires.

*The most favourable winds and weather
for an angler to go out in.*

THE best winds are those from the *south* or *west*, and *south east*, when they blow warm in the spring, with a good breeze, for most common fish; but for Salmon and Trout a strong wind is best. In very
warm.

warm weather, a cool wind from any of these points is better than too warm;—in autumn and winter, the warmer the better. Some have affirmed, that when the wind comes from the east or north quarters, it is of no use to attempt to angle. The fish, indeed, may not take so well for a day or two at such time; but afterwards, though the wind should continue so, they will come out to feed, and you may have sport, provided you angle where the water is sheltered from such winds, and even in the streams where it is not, keeping your back to the wind, and fishing near to the side you are on. As to myself, I can aver, that for years past, let the wind and weather be as it might, I never failed of taking fish more or less; for if some kinds of fish are not in the humour to take, others are.

As to the weather, I shall here be very brief on that head; only observing, that the days following bright and moonlight nights are most favourable to the angler, particularly when they happen to be overcast and gloomy, or with flying showers.—

If

298 THE COMPLETE FLY-MAKER.

If you should go out in a morning which proves bright and calm, and the day should change to cloudiness without rain, but with a good brisk wind, the large fish will then come on their feed, and you cannot well fail of having sport, as you may also in stormy showery weather, after each shower subsides.

THE END.

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